

Sketch

Contradiction, not contraction



Simon Hoggart

THOSE of us who believe passionately in Scottish independence, and would paint blue stripes on our faces if we thought it would help, found our views much strengthened yesterday.

For one thing, John Major made a speech last night, and for another, Parliament spent the best part of an hour on one of those absurd little paradoxes — or "contradictions" as the Marxists used to call them, and probably still do, since most Marxists have been quite unfazed by the collapse of Marxism.

On Tuesday three SNP members staged a sit-in at the Scottish standing committee, which was debating a bill on Scottish education. They were protesting against the fact that three members of the committee sit for English seats, drafted in to allow the Tory government a majority, even though only a handful of Conservatives actually sit for Scottish seats.

Got that? Anyhow, the three MPs had refused to leave the seats they were squatting in, and yesterday Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, proposed a motion which would allow the Serjeant at Arms to throw them out, by force if necessary. Since the Serjeant never goes anywhere without his trusty stick, or at least a sword, that is no idle threat.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, rose to oppose. (Mr Salmond is the MP for Banff. A previous member was a Tory, David Myles, who was rather over-confident in his manner. Once he brusquely demanded a drink from one of the staff on the Terrace, a fellow known to all as the Rudest Barman in the World. "Are you a member?" asked the Rudest Barman. He puffed out his chest. "I'm Myles from Banff." "Aren't we all," said the barman. "I art if you was a member.")

Mr Salmond had decided to enjoy himself and treated us all to a mini-filibuster. This does not need to be long, merely longer in words than in meaning. We knew it was going to be a filibuster when he said he would be brief, since he did not want to stop the English MPs from catching the football.

Since this was not due to start for three hours and 58 minutes, it seemed more like a threat than a promise. The art of the filibuster is a difficult one, since under the rules of order you may not stray from the subject. Unlike US senators, who can read out their local phone books, our MPs must cling, however feebly, to the topic in hand.

So filibusters always give way, especially to the more long-winded members. Once they have heard the interruption they devote a few graceful words to the MP concerned, reflecting on his years of service to the House, his devotion to the cause of fair play, his sagacious views on all matters, and so forth.

Now and again Tories asked why, since the SNP has a policy of never voting on purely English business, they had voted against the nursery vouchers bill. Mr Salmond said that, er, their policy hadn't changed, but that nursery vouchers were clearly getting a trial run for Scotland.

"This subtle metaphysical difference — they feel they can vote on bills which might one day, in the distant future, have something to do with Scotland — kept him going for another 16 minutes.

Robert the Bruce could have learned something about dogged determination from Mr Salmond. As for the spider, it would have packed up and gone home hours ago.

The whole thing was absurd. Of course, it is ludicrous that English MPs sit on committees to consider Scottish bills. It is even dafter that Scottish members can vote on purely English legislation. They must have their independence now, and if that means taking a claymore to silly old Unionists like Mr Major, so be it.

Meanwhile, the two big parties had stubbed the vote up, and the Serjeant was given permission to run Mr Salmond through the vitals by 349 votes to five.

Lilley pins hopes on figures showing low paid did relatively better than top earners during Tory years

Study 'rebutts poverty myth'

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MEAN on low incomes fared relatively better during the 1980s than did the highest earners, according to a government study published yesterday.

Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, is pinning his faith on the large-scale study — covering almost 80,000 men — to rebut the accusation that the poor have got poorer under the Conservatives.

He was immediately attacked by the Child Poverty Action Group last night as being "completely wrong".

Britain has no official poverty line, but all the indicators normally used have suggested that the nation became increasingly unequal after the Conservatives came to power.

Numbers on income below half the average almost tripled between 1979 and 1992/93; numbers on or below the level of income support rose from 7.7 million (14 per cent of the population) in 1979 to 13.7 million (24 per cent) in 1993; average income of the poorest tenth of the population fell 17 per cent in real terms between 1979 and 1992/93.

The new study, ordered by Mr Lilley, looks at earnings movements by tracking national insurance and tax re-

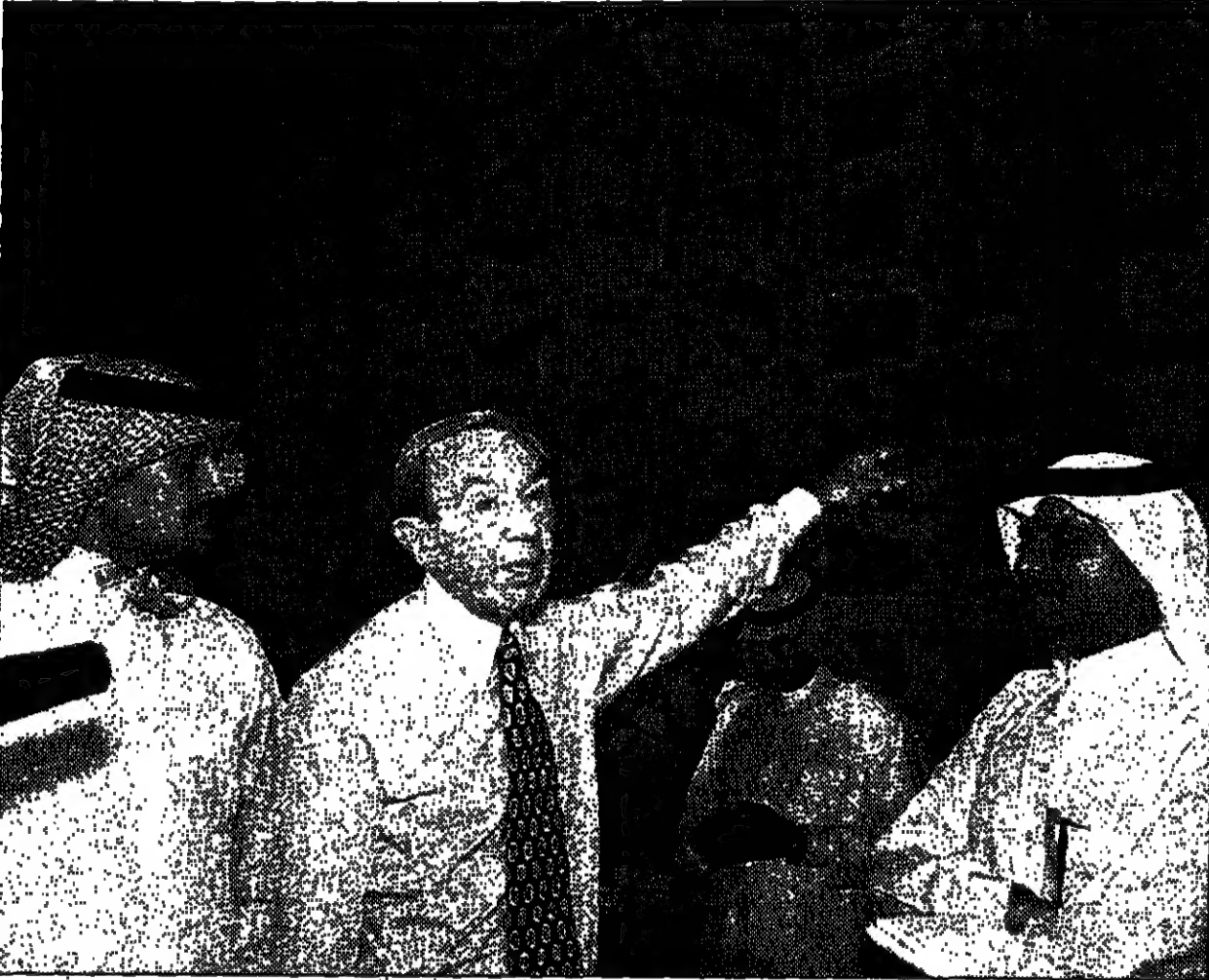
Two ways of looking at income

DSS data shows:
 ● Numbers living below half average income rose from 5 million (9 per cent of population) in 1979 to 14.1 million (25 per cent) in 1992-93. Richest tenth of population had 62 per cent rise in income, poorest tenth a 17 per cent cut.
 ● Top fifth of male earners in 1978 enjoyed 33 per cent rise in real earnings by 1992/93. But bottom fifth increased earnings by 42 per cent.

records of men aged 25 to 44 in 1978. In the past researchers focused on a given year. Mr Lilley said in a statement that the study showed how people's work status and earnings changed over time. It continued: "It was 'too simplistic' to say that people at

the bottom of income and earnings distributions had become worse off. "The men in this study have not, in general, stayed in the same position for 15 years. Many have moved both into and out of work and the great majority of earners saw real increases in their earnings over the period."

The findings offer evidence for the minister's contention that, although the earnings ladder lengthened markedly in the 1980s, there was considerable movement up and down it and most of those at the bottom did not stay there. Only about 16 per cent of the men in the bottom tenth in 1978/79 were there in 1992/93, the study shows. Moreover, only just over 4 per cent remained in the bottom group throughout the period. Those in the bottom fifth saw an average 42 per cent rise in real earnings compared to only 33 per cent among those starting in the top fifth. About 90 per cent of those in the bottom tenth in 1978 had a real earnings increase by 1992/93. Across the survey group as a whole, only 75 per cent did so. The study also finds that median average male earnings peaked at age 41. Mr Lilley has said the research would "blow apart" the theory that the poor got poorer under the Tories. Sally Withcher, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said: "He is completely wrong. I would very much like to believe that it was the case that the people at the bottom were in fact better off. There is a vast body of evidence to suggest that that is not the case at all."



Secretary of state Warren Christopher at the US military quarters where a bomb killed 19

US rallies G7 on terrorism

President Clinton is to insist that today's summit addresses security after bomb kills 19 American troops in Saudi Arabia

Martin Walker in Washington and Ian Black in London

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton will insist that terrorism become the priority of the G7 summit which opens in Lyon today, as FBI investigators in Saudi Arabia investigate the bombing which killed 19 Americans at the Dhahran air base.

"We cannot have economic security in a global economy unless we can stand against these forces of terrorism," the president said as he left for Europe. "The United States will lead the way, and we expect our allies to walk with us hand-in-hand."

An unknown group, the "Legion of the Martyr Abdulrahman al-Husaini", yesterday claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack and for a blast in Riyadh in November, which killed five Americans and two Indians.

A caller to Al-Arab newspaper in London said the group would carry out more attacks against foreign military units unless the government expelled all US and other foreign troops "occupying the holy Saudi land". The claim could not be verified.

US pressure to single out Iran — which is likely to be blamed for inspiring the bombing — could prove divisive in the light of sharp US-European differences on the issue.

John Major called the attack "an act of pure evil" while the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, said: "The British Government condemns in the strongest possible terms the appalling terrorist attack."

Similar condemnation came from France, Germany, Russia and many Arab countries.

Saudi Arabia promised "very harsh and very swift" punishment and offered a 10 million riyals (£1.7 million) reward for help in securing arrests.

Mr Clinton insisted on the need for an international crusade against terrorism.

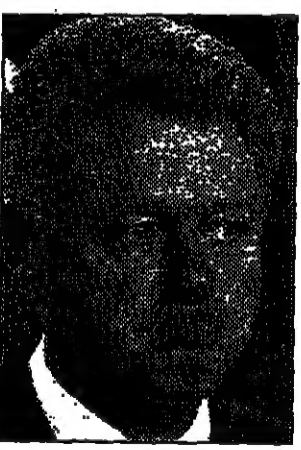
"Our struggle is to deal with these new perils — terrorists who strike not just in Saudi Arabia, but in the suburbs of Tokyo, in the streets of London, in the holy land and in America's heartland; usually people in the paralysing grip of religious, ethnic and racial hatred," he said.

He made it clear he would demand support from G7 partners against "rogue states like Iran and Iraq" — an ominous pointer to US suspicions about responsibility for the bombing.

Any results on terrorism from the Lyon summit will depend heavily on co-operation agreements on international crime, smuggling, money-laundering and drug-trafficking reached at last year's Canadian G7 summit.

Mr Clinton said it was not clear whether the bomb "was directed primarily against us because we're Americans or simply because we're there in partnership with this government."

The bombing has brought back into prominence the discreet but massive US military presence, totalling nearly 20,000 troops, in the Saudi



kingdom. Nearly 3,000 of them are based at the King Abdul-Aziz air base, and live in 10-storey blocks in a guarded residential compound for foreigners at the nearby town of Khobar.

Mr Clinton said there was still no clue to the identity of two men seen leaving the fuel tanker outside the residential compound used by US Air Force personnel on Tuesday evening.

The three-ton load of explosives left a crater 35ft deep, killed 19 Americans, seriously wounded 80 other people, 64 of them Americans, and left another 300 slightly injured.

The difficulty in the US military and diplomatic alliance with the oil-rich sheikhdoms and monarchies of the Gulf is that "tolerance and freedom" are qualities not usually associated with the kingdom.

'Our struggle is to deal with terrorists who strike not just in Saudi Arabia, but in the suburbs of Tokyo, in the streets of London, in the holy land and in America's heartland'

— President Clinton

Warren Christopher, the secretary of state, flew to Dhahran yesterday — a less provocative presence than his predecessor. The G7 provides Mr Clinton with a far more friendly forum than the United Nations. The dependence of most G7 members on Saudi and Middle Eastern oil will not encourage debate about the politics of the US military presence.

The bombing will give an extra edge to next week's pre-arranged visit to the kingdom by Mr Rifkind, who is seeking to mend fences and advance business ties and arms sales after the row over the Saudi dissident Mohammed al-Mas'ari.

Achilles' heel of West, page 5; Leader comment, page 5; David Hirst, page 5; G7 summit, page 12

MPs ready to challenge Birt on BBC change

Andrew Cull, Media Correspondent

JOHN Birt, the BBC's director general, is expected to face a new grilling from MPs following his radical restructuring of the corporation.

The all-party National Heritage select committee is planning to launch a fresh inquiry into the BBC in the autumn. It emerged yesterday. It would have powers to summon witnesses, including Mr Birt and the BBC's chairman, Sir Christopher Bland.

The move was welcomed by viewer and listener organisations, which have complained of a lack of consultation about the shake-up, heralded by Mr Birt as preparing the BBC for the digital age.

Critics have alleged the reorganisation downgraded the status of radio and threatened to destroy the character of World Service radio. Gerald Kaufman, the Labour chairman of the committee, confirmed an inquiry into the BBC was being considered. "It is something we will decide in the autumn. If we do go ahead it will include everything about the BBC, not just the restructuring."

Mr Kaufman has been an outspoken critic of changes at Radio 3. It would be the committee's second inquiry into the BBC — in 1993 it backed removal of the charter and the licence fee for 10 years. Jocelyn Hay, chairman of the Voice of the Listener and

Viewer, said: "Far too little information has been provided by the BBC. There have been virtually no facts, just assertions that the changes will save money."

Rachel Mayhew, of the Radio 4 Watch pressure group, welcomed the planned investigation. "What the BBC is doing is unconstitutional. There is no consensus for the changes and radio is bound to be sidelined under the new structure."

The scale of the changes surprised senior BBC executives as time goes on upon the intangible assets it has built up and which, I hope and trust, it will be imaginative enough to sustain," he said.

Three consumer bodies clubbed together, with the backing of the BBC and the Independent Television Commission, to demand legislation to ensure a single set-top decoder for digital television.

Scots and Welsh furious at Labour over referendums

continued from page 1
 also be asked if they want the Edinburgh assembly to enjoy tax-raising powers, some Labour strategists must be hoping that they will say No. That would relieve a Blair government of having to deal with what Tory ministers have dubbed the "tartan tax" — a potent campaign issue in the hands of the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth.

Last night Mr Forsyth declared: "Labour's devolution policy is now a shambles. They are making it up as they go along."

In a speech to a London think tank, Mr Major warned: "It's no use the Opposition retreating and trying to dodge the argument by pledging a referendum. A referendum would do nothing to make these plans less dangerous."

As today's announcements are about procedure, not substance, shadow ministers will campaign for a Yes on tax, Wales, which will not have that option, will be offered an assembly elected on proportional representation to bring it into line with Scotland. That, too, will divide Welsh Labour MPs.

Some Liberal Democrats, including the party's Welsh leader, Alex Carlile, gave the move a cautious welcome. Alex Salmond, SNP leader, was furious. "This is a betrayal of gigantic proportions. Labour have been saying in Scotland for the last six years that devolution was unfinished business and that there was no need for a referendum and that a general election would decide it," he said.

Review

New texture from old instruments

Andrew Clements

London Classical Players/Norrington City of London Festival

A DECADE ago, hearing any 19th century music, even a Beethoven symphony, played on original instruments would have been quite a novelty. Now Beethoven has become very much part of the authentic scene; so too has Schubert.

Mendelssohn, Schumann and Berlioz will be the next major composers to be annexed, and the more adventurous pioneers in the field are beginning to investigate the high-water marks of musical romanticism.

None of these explorers has been more intrepid than Roger Norrington; he has already performed and recorded Brahms and Wagner with an orchestra using the instruments that the composers would have known, and even tackled a Bruckner symphony.

Where it will all end remains to be seen, but meanwhile there is still plenty of fertile territory in the second half of the 19th century to be exploited.

Even so Norrington and his orchestra, the London Classical Players, opened the City of London Festival in the Guildhall last night with a pretty unlikely piece of period reconstruction, Smetana's cycle of symphonic poems *Ma Vlast*, his psalm to Czech nationalism.

The differences between Smetana's score as played by a present-day orchestra, and as the composer would have expected to hear it, are not nearly as radical as, say, the contrast between a Bach Brandenburg Concerto played according to baroque tunings and convention and a performance (very rare nowadays) on modern strings and wind, but they are still real enough.

● This review appeared in later editions yesterday

The best value plain paper

The best value plain paper

The best value plain paper fax you can get

The best value plain paper fax you can get

With a Canon B100 fax machine, you get high quality plain paper faxes without the high price. For more details call free on 0500 246 246

Canon If anyone can Canon can

Handwritten signature or stamp

Johnnie 1:50

'Until that moment, even though shots had been fired into the house, I never believed my life was in danger. I haven't given up because I genuinely think it is a job that has to be done. I just would not give in to them'

— Veronica Guerin



Veronica Guerin in hospital after an earlier warning shooting at her Dublin home when she was wounded in the thigh

PHOTOGRAPH: THE STAR, IRELAND

Nuclear sale may only net £1.26bn

Simon Barvis
Industrial Editor

THE Government yesterday admitted it was prepared to sell the country's eight most modern nuclear reactors for as little as £1.26 billion, or just over a third of what it cost to build the newest atomic power station, Sizewell B in Suffolk.

In an unprecedented move, ministers left potential investors in next month's privatisation of British Energy guessing how much they would have to pay for their shares when they said the company could fetch up to £1.96 billion.

Although the first instalment on the shares has been fixed at 100p a share for small investors, they will in effect be "buying blind" and could pay anywhere between 180p and 280p a share in the second and final tranches. The final second instalment price will be fixed in the next three weeks, but after small investors have applied.

The move came as it emerged that the prospectus has been amended, as reported in the Guardian yesterday, following a new investigation by nuclear inspectors into problems with the uranium fuel components common to six of the eight atomic power stations.

Yesterday's document carries more details of the safety investigation than a pathfinder prospectus published a fortnight ago, admitting that specific problems with fuel elements have so far been identified at two stations. The full sale document also carries stronger warnings from Labour that, if elected, it would regulate British Energy's activities more tightly.

The Government last year indicated it would raise at least £2.6 billion from the sale, against the £2.9 billion it cost to build Sizewell B.

But it has been forced continually to lower its forecast of likely proceeds amid concerns that the company's profits will be hit by operational problems and falling electricity prices.

Unveiling the prospectus, Ian Lang, the Trade Secretary, denied that the wide pricing range was an indication of the uncertainty surrounding the sale, instead it would allow maximum flexibility in pricing the issue.

But one City analyst said the price had spiralled down because there were some "genuine concerns" about the sale. He described the float as a bet on future electricity prices since British Energy is highly dependent on what it can earn in the wholesale electricity market.

Labour's energy spokesman, John Battie, said the industry was being sold for a fraction of the value that the taxpayer had spent in building reactors. He also warned that a significant amount of British Energy's £14 billion bill for cleaning up and closing stations could be paid from the public purse.

But investors have been told they must invest a minimum of £300 and will pay a first instalment of 100p-per-share, compared with the 105p which City institutions will have to pay. A minimum of 30 per cent of the 700 million British Energy shares will be allocated to the public, with a potential to increase that depending on demand ahead of the sale, scheduled to end on July 15.

Leader comment, page 5; Notebook, page 11

Dublin hitmen kill reporter

Award-winning woman crime writer who exposed the godfathers of the Irish drugs underworld is intercepted by motorbikers and gunned down at city traffic lights

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

An award-winning crime journalist and scourge of Dublin's drugs underworld was shot dead in the Irish capital yesterday, apparently by contract killers.

Veronica Guerin, who has exposed a number of Dublin's criminal godfathers in the Sunday Independent, was shot in her car on the Neasdal carpark in Co Dublin at around 1pm.

Two men on a motorbike, wearing white crash helmets,

shot in the thigh last year by a lone gunman, riding a motorbike and wearing a black crash helmet.

Ms Guerin was on her way back from Neas district court when she was killed and minutes before had telephoned her deputy editor, Willie Keely, to discuss an article about another Dublin criminal.

Mr Keely said: "We are all shocked. This is a tragedy and an outrage."

Police Superintendent Bryan O'Higgins said: "We have a description of the gunman, known as 'the General', who was shot dead by the IRA in August 1994. The deputy prime minister, Dick Spring, said no effort would be spared to bring her killers to justice."

Ms Guerin was 36 and married to a builder, Graham Turley. They have a 7-year-old son, Cahill, and live at Cloughra, near Dublin airport north of the capital.

It was there that she was

intercepted Ms Guerin's car at traffic lights on a slip road in Clonsilla. One fired a handgun, killing her instantly.

The shooting bore a chilling resemblance to the murder of one of Ms Guerin's journalistic subjects, Martin Cahill, known as 'the General', who was shot dead by the IRA in August 1994. The deputy prime minister, Dick Spring, said no effort would be spared to bring her killers to justice.

Ms Guerin was 36 and married to a builder, Graham Turley. They have a 7-year-old son, Cahill, and live at Cloughra, near Dublin airport north of the capital.

It was there that she was

shooting: "The door was pushed in on top of me and I fell back. There was a figure standing in front of me ... and the first thing my eyes were drawn to was a handgun. I looked up to his eyes to appeal to him — don't shoot me. I remember noticing for the first time that he had a black motorcycle helmet on."

"I just put my hands up to my head and went down on to the ground and went into a foetus-like position. I felt a roar come out of me and he just seemed to bring the gun down across my body and it was on my leg and then there was a shot."

"I suppose I thought somebody was angered by something I had written. Until that moment, even though shots had been fired into the house in October, I never believed my life was in danger. I haven't given up because I genuinely think it is a job

that has to be done. I just would not give in to them."

She was given police protection and had a £25,000 security system installed, but continued to write about criminals.

She was awarded the prestigious International Press Freedom Award. Then in September she was assaulted and threatened by a businessman just released from prison. The man told another journalist: "Listen pal, I'll find out who you are and I'll kill you, too."

Ms Guerin famously scooped colleagues by getting the first interview with the Bishop of Galway, Eamon Casey, after he fled to South America following revelations about his son.

Her final article, in last weekend's Sunday Independent, was about how the operation commander of the IRA's southern division sanctioned a robbery which resulted in the murder of a

Garda detective. Ms Guerin's last words read: "The IRA used the ceasefire to prepare for a bombing campaign in England. The ceasefire put an end to regular observation of IRA activists."

"Special Branch officers who, up to the ceasefire, were working exclusively on IRA investigations, were now also assigned to working on Dublin's criminal underworld."

Ms Guerin was due to take part in a conference in London this week on the theme: "Journalists under Fire, Media under Siege. John Owey, executive director of the Freedom Forum, which is organising the conference, said: "It is a terrible, awful irony, much of this conference is so far gone with journalists killed for what you don't have to go to a war zone—embellished."

Obituary, page 10

Airline in two safety scares is wound up

Nick Varley

THE airline which has been at the centre of two safety scares involving the same jet in the past month has gone into liquidation.

Holiday operators Excalibur Airways suffered a "loss of customer confidence" after "sensationalised" media reports of the incidents, according to its liquidators, chartered accountants Deloitte and Touche.

They said the East Midlands firm was also let down, and suffered significant losses, in a recent aircraft deal aimed at giving them a foothold on long-haul routes.

About 1,000 Britons who have flown to America with Excalibur in the last few days were last night understood still to be in the country, mainly in Florida and California.

The passengers' agent is a member of the Association of British Travel Agents so they will be covered for return flights on other airlines.

A flight from Manchester to Orlando in Florida today was cancelled and passengers were told to contact their travel agent.

Excalibur was set up in 1992, employed 180 people and operated out of Gatwick, Manchester and East Midlands airports. This month 91 passengers refused to board the airline's DC10 aircraft in Orlando after smoke started coming from the plane.

Last weekend 350 passengers refused to re-board the same plane, also in Orlando, after a series of problems culminating in the pilot slamming on the brakes as the jet reached top speed before take-off. The tourists finally flew out of Florida for Manchester after a 25-hour delay.

Deloitte and Touche said the airline "quite properly, and in the interests of the safety of the passengers, took the aircraft out of service until identified faults had been rectified."

It added the action of the airline, air crew and engineers had been confirmed by the Civil Aviation Authority as being appropriate and correct.

The airline's other business problems stemmed from an attempt to move into long-haul operations with two DC10s.

A last minute refusal to co-operate by a leasing company meant Excalibur was forced to find an alternative supplier.

Replacement aircraft were secured but they could not be put into service on the planned date.

As a result the airline suffered substantial losses from "excessive sub-charter costs charged by other airlines", according to the liquidators. An 11-hour rescue plan fell through.

The provisional liquidator, Andrew Peters, is now seeking purchasers for the business.

Ireland registers shock as turf wars cast their lengthening shadow over the life of a not-so-fair city

ASERIES of murders in Dublin, most of them the result of drugs "turf wars", have shocked a society that still thought of itself as remarkably law-abiding and decent, writes David Sharrock.

Veronica Guerin came into frequent contact with the leading figures of Irish crime, many of whom are now dead. The most famous was Martin Cahill, nicknamed "the General", who finally crossed the IRA once too often and died in strikingly similar circumstances to the reporter who frequently wrote about and interviewed him.

The gunman who despatched Cahill in August 1994 pumped five bullets into him at point-blank range before making his escape on the back of a motorbike.

Cahill was accused by the IRA of collaborating with loyalist terrorists — indeed, security sources believe that if loyalists return to violence they may hire contract killers in Dublin to carry out their work in

stances to the reporter who frequently wrote about and interviewed him.

The gunman who despatched Cahill in August 1994 pumped five bullets into him at point-blank range before making his escape on the back of a motorbike.

Cahill was accused by the IRA of collaborating with loyalist terrorists — indeed, security sources believe that if loyalists return to violence they may hire contract killers in Dublin to carry out their work in

the Irish Republic. The demise of the General left a vacuum at the centre of the criminal underworld and the subsequent series of brutal murders appear to be evidence of the rush to fill it. Three contract-style assassinations were carried out in one day last November.

The surge in violence has gone hand-in-hand with a dramatic rise in drugs seizures.

Guns, in turn, have become more commonplace as big-time dealers import

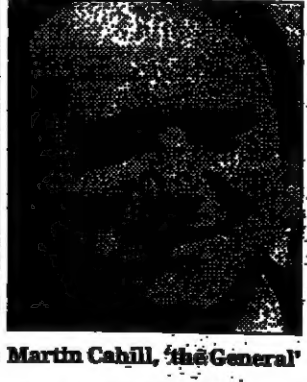
hardware along with merchandise to protect their investments.

Recent victims include Christy Delaney, who is believed to have been shot dead in October, a former Northern Ireland republican now living in Amsterdam, from where he controls most of Ireland's cannabis importation.

A former associate of Cahill's, a man known as "the Viper", has survived three attempts on his life in the past year.

Another underworld figure interviewed by Veronica Guerin was alleged by her to be the mastermind behind Ireland's biggest armed robbery last year, the £2 million Brinks Allied raid.

In the end, she was prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt over involvement in major drugs dealing. But new names spring up with ever increasing rapidity in Dublin, and it seems that one of the new generation was not prepared to let Ms Guerin pry into his affairs.



Martin Cahill, 'the General'

Fast machine. Lean price. Call now.

Designed for Microsoft® Windows 95

Intel Inside Pentium®

Once again, Dell delivers more than ever for less than ever. For a limited period, our extra-powerful 120MHz Dimension™ P120t is only £999 (£1,203.20 incl. delivery and VAT). But its low price doesn't mean a low spec you get 16Mb of EDO RAM, 256Kb Cache, 1Gb Hard Drive, Six Speed CD-ROM Drive, integrated 64-bit PCI Local Bus Video and Microsoft® Windows 95. Plus, of course, the reliability and award-winning support you'd expect from the UK's largest direct PC manufacturer.* But you must act quickly. Call us now on 01344 724631 and upgrade to a mean machine at a lean price.

DELL

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724631
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

£999 (£1,203.20 incl. delivery + VAT)

● DELL DIMENSION P120t ● INTEL® 120MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR ● 16Mb EDO RAM ● 256Kb PIPELINE BURST CACHE ● 1Gb EIDE HARD DRIVE ● INTEGRATED 64-BIT PCI LOCAL BUS VIDEO WITH 1Mb VIDEO MEMORY ● 15" SVGA MONITOR (113.75" VIEWABLE AREA) ● 3 PCI, 2 ISA AND 1 PCI/ISA SHARED EXPANSION SLOTS ● SIX SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE ● MID-SIZED TOWER CHASSIS ● MICROSOFT® WINDOWS 95 ● DELL MOUSE AND KEYBOARD

Dell is a registered trademark of the Dell Computer Corporation Ltd 1992. Dell, Dell logo, Pentium and Windows are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows 95 and Windows logo are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. © 1995. All rights reserved. Prices correct at time of publication. Dell cannot be held responsible for any changes in hardware or software specifications. *Based on sales of desktop PCs in the UK for the year ending 31st March 1995. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd (UK) 1995. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd (UK) 1995. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd (UK) 1995. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd (UK) 1995.

4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Deportee 'may live in Ireland'

THE Home Office is being asked to consider whether the illegal immigrant Albert Tong can start a new life with his family in the Irish Republic rather than be deported to Hong Kong, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Tong, aged 43, was discharged yesterday from hospital a week after collapsing with a suspected heart attack following his arrest in a church where he took sanctuary. John Wilkin, the solicitor who had represented him in Cornwall, said Mr Tong's wife, Becky, was flying to Ireland with their three-year-old daughter, Monica, to take up a job offer.

Later, Mr Tong's London-based solicitor, Chris Bryan, said he was talking to the Home Office about his client joining his wife. He said Mr Tong had a right to go to Ireland because his wife was a British citizen. By working there she had European Community rights, and her husband had the right to stay there with her. "There is a ticket ready and waiting for him, and it is really a question of the Home Office arranging it," he said.

A Home Office spokesman said, "Our position remains that when he is medically fit we will be deporting him to Hong Kong."

Father seeks death inquiry

THE father of a soldier killed with two colleagues in Bosnia yesterday demanded a fresh inquiry into their deaths after an inquest jury disagreed with the findings of an army board of inquiry. The three died when their armoured personnel carrier rolled out of control on a narrow track and tumbled down the side of a mountain as they patrolled the Bosnian front line.

Privates Christopher Turner, Philip Armstrong and Martin Dowdell were serving in the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment as part of the British peacekeeping force guarding the Muslim enclave at Gorazde.

The jury returned verdicts of accidental death at an inquest in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

An army board of inquiry, held almost a year after the incident, recorded the cause of the accident as driver error, but the jury foreman at the inquest told Wiltshire coroner David Masters: "We didn't consider the driving skills of Private Dowdell to be in any way inadequate."

The three day hearing was told earlier the vehicles were not ideally suited to the mountain tracks of Bosnia.

Geoffrey Armstrong, father of Philip Armstrong, said after the hearing he would be writing to his MP in an attempt to have the internal board of inquiry reopened or reconvened.

£110,000 for arrest

A WOMAN whose arrest outside her house when wearing only a nightdress was witnessed by her five-year-old son was yesterday awarded £110,000 in damages against the Metropolitan police. Janet Scafe, now 38, won a claim for assault and false imprisonment arising from the arrest in Peckham, south London, in July 1991.

A jury made the award at Central London county court after hearing Mrs Scafe was also subjected to racist abuse by the arresting officer as she was taken to the police station.

She had been detained for assaulting the officer but protested that her son would be left alone if she was taken away. It was only when her husband arrived home that she was allowed back into the house to change. Mrs Scafe was tried on the charge but was acquitted. — Nick Varley

Accident victim's £300,000

FORMER boxing champion Richard Dunn has been awarded damages of £300,000 after an accident left him disabled. The 51-year-old former British, European and Commonwealth heavyweight champion, beaten by Muhammad Ali in their world title fight 20 years ago, received extensive injuries when he fell 40ft from a rig 100 miles off Aberdeen in December 1989 while working as a scaffolder.

He had several operations and was told he would never walk again, but he is now able to get around with sticks. He said the support from family and friends had been "tremendous".

Mr Dunn, of Newby, Scarborough, had his ankles shattered when he landed on a steel floor on the rig. An out of court settlement with insurers for his former employers, Cape of Aberdeen, has been agreed and the money invested.

Trees yield peep into history

Tim Radford on laud of the rings

HISTORIANS will have to redate the civilisations of Egypt, Babylon and Minoan of Crete if a discovery by scientists is correct.

Archaeologists have completed a new tree ring technique to provide an exact countdown of 1,503 years in the Bronze Age. The span, painstakingly counted out



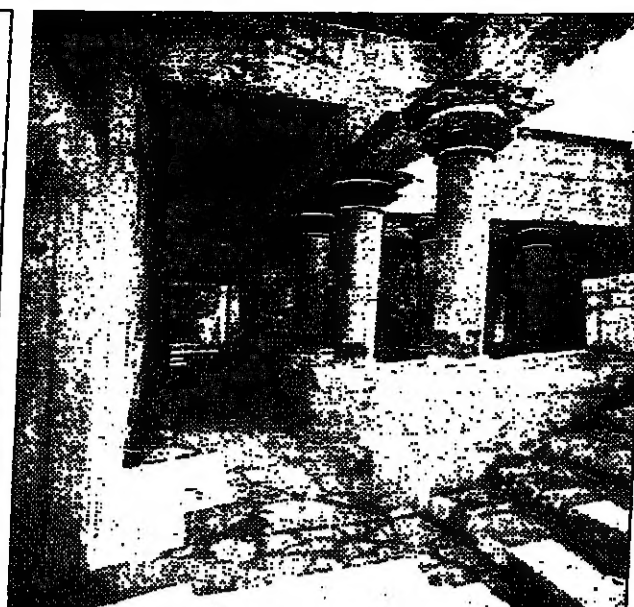
Ancient remains... A statue of Hammurabi of Babylon, and the Minoan grand staircase and fresco at Knossos, Crete

in the seasonal growth rings, covers the years 2220 BC to 718 BC.

"For 100 years, there have been elaborate scholarly disputes over when one king reigned and one didn't, whether one particular pottery period was then, or 50 or 100 years later," said Sturt Manning, of Reading university,

speaking from the Greek island of Santorini, the ancient Thera. He has been working on the technique with scientists from Cornell and Heidelberg.

"We are saying this 100 years of scholarly debates are to all intents now irrelevant: we can offer dates to standing buildings and monuments now plus or mi-



nus zero. So it is an absolute chronology and it ends this type of pointless debate.

"We have 22 major ancient monuments which have been excavated and in which wood has been found. We have been able to put together the wood from these 22 sites to build up a 1,503 year continuous chro-

nology." The story, told in the journal Nature today, is a triumph for the relatively new science of dendrochronology.

This project began 23 years ago with the excavation of what is known as the Midas Mound — a 53 metre high man-made tumulus in Turkey, dated from 718 BC. It contained

the grave and ornaments of a fabulously wealthy king. More importantly, it contained logs to make the funeral house.

Trees make annual growth rings which also give clues to climate of those years. Unlike ice core evidence from Greenland or Antarctica, or radiocarbon dates which contain uncertainties of 50 or 100 years, tree growth rings are precisely marked.

One of the authors, Peter Kuniholm of Cornell university in Ithaca, New York state, started putting together a pattern of years that could be linked with pottery, written sources, timber from other sites.

"We can say that a palace, for example, of a man called Warsama, which is at Kultepe, a famous site in Turkey, was built with wood that was cut down in 1510 BC. That palace has seals inside it which mention a person who was a contemporary of Hammurabi of Babylon, the law-giver. There has been more than 100 years of debate about when Hammurabi existed," said Dr Manning.

"The debated span covered 240 years."

The scientists have collected more than 6,500 years of wood from the Aegean and near east.



Michael Heseltine during his visit to Manchester, when he promised substantial government aid and urged local leaders to 'think big'

PHOTOGRAPH CHRIS THOMSON

International contest to rebuild Manchester

Peter Hetherington

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday seized the initiative on rebuilding central Manchester with a bold plan for an international architectural competition to lay out the city of the 21st century.

Eleven days after an IRA bomb ripped the heart out of the city, causing damage estimated at more than £200 million, the Deputy Prime Minister promised substantial — but as yet unspecified — government aid.

Visibly shaken after touring the devastated centre, where an estimated 350 shops and businesses have been put out of action, he took personal responsibility for the renewal and promised to return next week for a more detailed ex-

What architects think

TERRY FARRELL, responsible for the new M16 building and TV-am's former headquarters, was impressed with the competition concept. Instead, "four or five" leading international architects should be asked to submit designs — and be paid.

amination of damage. With an enthusiasm few have seen since his barnstorming days as unofficial "Minister for Merseyside" after riots in 1981, Mr Heseltine urged council and business leaders in the city to think big and turn a "barbaric act" to advantage. "This is an opportunity, perhaps unique, to

rebuild and recreate the centre of one of England's great cities."

After talks with the city council leader, Richard Leese, he said that architects from around the world would be invited to redesign the centre of what is regarded as the world's first industrial city.

"We have agreed that in

order to show the options for rebuilding, there will be an international competition to provide a range of ideas for an imaginative concept." The Prime Minister had decided the Government should cover some of the competition costs.

Mr Heseltine is moving towards the council's concept of a task force, probably headed by himself, to spearhead the renewal drive. He said the Government would give £50,000 to the Lord Mayor's emergency fund to help immediate hardship, and the ultimate financial aid would be substantial. "There is bound to be extra money... we don't yet know the form or the scale."

The council estimates that up to half of the businesses out of action have no insurance and need emergency help.

Holiday island 'centre of beef scam milking EU subsidies'

David Henke
Westminster Correspondent

THE holiday paradise island of Mauritius may be the centre for a worldwide corned beef scam originating in Britain, a committee of MPs revealed yesterday.

Customs officers discovered the scam after figures suggested that the island's one million inhabitants — mainly fish eaters and vegetarians — appeared to be consuming abnormally high quantities of subsidised British beef.

MPs were told that although tourists were thought to eat a lot of beef this still could not account for the passion for red meat in Mauritius — before the beef export ban was imposed following the BSE scare. The figures show that over 9,000 tonnes of beef were consumed by the Mauritians — 4,000 tonnes coming from Britain.

The export trade — 10 times Britain's beef exports to India and only just below Britain's best customer, South Africa — has led to a

big Customs and Excise investigation. The Commons Public Accounts Committee revealed yesterday.

As a result, three British exporters have been asked to repay over £630,000 for avoiding customs duties and subsidised beef export subsidies to which they were not entitled. They were discovered taking advantage of European Union rules and using Mauritius to re-export the subsidised meat as corned beef back to Britain and other EU countries.

MPs warn that tougher controls are needed to prevent similar scams re-emerging once the beef ban is lifted.

Denzil Davies, Labour MP for Llanelli, who spotted the huge rise in the said: "My first thought was perhaps they have a lot of McDonald's."

Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce: Preventing, Detecting and Acting on Irregularities. Twenty second report of the Commons Public Accounts Committee. HMSO £8.

Parkhurst escaper 'was contemplating suicide'

TWO convicted murderers felt they had no choice but break out of a top security prison, a court heard yesterday. Andrew Rodger, 46, mentally ill and contemplating suicide, probably saved his own life by escaping, it was suggested.

Keith Rose, 46, who joined the well planned scheme to the Isle of Wight, had become increasingly unhappy at the way prison authorities treated him, and also acted under the "duress of circumstances", Woolwich crown court was told.

Rose and Rodger deny a charge of breaking out of prison in January last year, with a third inmate, Matthew Williams, 36, who is not before the court.

The jury has heard their escape involved a copied prison pass-key, and a do-it-yourself ladder.

Anthony Davis, prosecuting, said inadequate supervision also played a part in the break-out, which according to one of the escapers was timed to cause "major embarrassment" to the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

Once free, they failed to

steal a light aircraft from Sandown airport and were forced to hide in a run-down summer house for five days as an intensive manhunt raged around them.

Their luck finally ran out as they walked to the coast to steal a boat, and were spotted by an off duty prison officer.

Adrian Fulford QC, defending Rodger, said that his client had been suffering from "post traumatic stress disorder" when he broke out. "That had been caused by learning that the term he would have to serve before being considered for release from his life sentence had been increased from 12 to 17 years."

He was contemplating suicide and came close to doing so on several occasions. It was only the prospect of escape that stopped him from taking his life.

Roderick Price QC, for Rose, said the qualified pilot had also been badly affected after learning the Home Secretary had scrapped his 17-year sentencing "tariff" and decided he would have to spend the rest of his life behind bars.

The trial continues.

From just £36

the RAC covers you in any car.

From just £36 for a full 12 months' cover, no one offers you more security on the road than the RAC:

- RAC Rescue covers you, not your car. So now you can call on us whenever you need fast roadside assistance, even when you're simply a passenger in someone else's car.
- Roadside Rescue. In more than 8 out of 10 cases, our patrols can fix cars on the spot. Otherwise, they'll tow you to a nearby garage, free of charge.
- Accident Service. A replacement car, free legal advice, plus we'll deal with your insurers.

■ Theft and Vandalism Cover. If your car's stolen or can't be driven because of vandalism, we'll remove it to a nearby garage or secure area.

■ Battery Assist. A new battery on the spot.

Whatever service you use, callouts and our labour are free — you only pay for parts.

You can also tailor your cover to meet your needs, with the option to take out Joint and Family Cover or add our 'At Home' service.

Don't wait until you break down. Find out how to join the RAC today.

YES — I want to join the RAC.
Please tell me how I can join from just £36*

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms
Address
Postcode
Telephone

Send to: RAC Rescue, FREEPOST, Bristol BS38 7AU. (No stamp needed.)
*Some costs like 24 hour pay by Cardless Credit Card Authority or Direct Debit. Cash enrolment price a £10 and discount applies to you. First year membership only. All prices include an annualised fee. Please limit open Monday — Friday 9am — 5pm, Saturday 9am — 5pm, Sunday 10am — 4pm.

ST0006/SS2217/3/XX

Handwritten note: "John Price 15/50"



SUMM

Court told of confession to father after body was dumped in sea

Jury hears how murdered girl was taken from tent

David Ward

A JURY yesterday heard how a seven-year-old girl dressed in a pink Pooch Bear nightgown was taken from a tent in her uncle's garden and murdered after a birthday party last summer.

Sophie Hook, of Great Budworth, Cheshire, was raped twice and had an arm broken by her attacker. She was then strangled and her naked body was dumped in the sea off Llandudno before being washed up on the shore, said Gerald Elias QC, prosecuting at Chester crown court.

"These atrocities reveal a depth of wickedness and depravity in whoever perpetrated them which almost defies belief," he said.

Howard Hughes, 31, an unemployed gardener from Colwyn Bay, denies murder and two charges of rape.

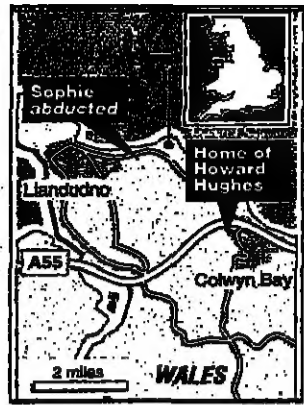
But Mr Elias claimed he admitted the crimes in a confession to his father after his arrest following Sophie's death on July 30.

Mr Elias added: "He said, 'I did it. Dad. I must tell somebody. On Saturday afternoon I went back at about two in the morning. I persuaded a girl to go with me to the beach.'"

Mr Elias said Hughes had continued: "Dad, I have been sexually frustrated since 1990. The girl started to scream and



Sophie Hook — killed after summer birthday party



I put my hand over her mouth and kept it there until she stopped. I took all her clothes off and threw her body into the sea."

Mr Elias continued: "On this very Saturday he had spent time hovering in areas where young children gathered. Not a few hours before he had made an attempt to lure away a six-year-old child from her grandmother's in Llandudno."

"He was bent on taking and using a young girl for his own sexual purposes... He had boasted to a friend of his liking for girls of four or five and his wish to abduct, sexually assault, and murder a young girl."

Mr Elias said Hughes was 6ft 6in tall and well built; So-

phie was 4ft 1in. She was "a seven-year-old, helpless in the face of an attack of this savagery".

The court heard that Sophie had gone with her mother, two sisters, aged nine and two, and five-year-old brother to her uncle's home on July 29 for her cousin's ninth birthday.

"They played in the garden with a paddling pool and some of the children stripped; Sophie wore only knickers."

Mr Elias said Hughes, who had been seen in the area by several witnesses, had spied on the children from a path near the garden and heard them planning to spend the night there in a tent.

Around midnight, four of the cousins went to bed in the

tent. Sophie's uncle, Danny Jones, went into the house and watched television. At 12.20am, one cousin decided to sleep in the house. The other three, including Sophie, returned to the tent.

"Mr Jones left them time to settle and at about 12.40am zipped up the doors of the tent and... went back to the house to bed," said Mr Elias.

He said Hughes abducted Sophie at about 2am, possibly by lifting her from the tent in her sleeping bag.

He said that when arrested Hughes was found to have shaved off his public hair. The clothes and shoes he wore on the day Sophie was killed had been washed. During questioning, he mentioned rape before detectives had mentioned the sexual assaults on Sophie. The court also heard that at an identity parade in Manchester, he said to a man brought into the line-up: "You won't like what I have done."

Mr Elias said Hughes threw Sophie's body into the sea to make forensic tests more difficult. But his "fatal mistake" was to not to dispose of her knickers and nightie.

"He was a collector of girls' knickers," said Mr Elias. "He kept them secreted at home in a garden wall." Mr Elias suggested that Hughes had intended to keep the clothing but then threw them into thick bushes when he realised that would be too dangerous.

The trial continues today.



The Prince of Wales on the Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland's famous tourist attraction in north Antrim, on the second day of his visit to the province. The causeway was created by cooling lava 60 million years ago

Legal aid changes condemned

Lord Mackay's plans 'would hit poorest sections of society'

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

LITIGANTS paying their lawyers from their own pockets who win cases against opponents on legal aid will be able to claim their costs from the Legal Aid Fund in hardship cases, under far-reaching reforms to be unveiled next week.

Those who bring losing cases will also have to contribute to the winner's costs, in a move to deter people from pursuing unmeritorious claims at the taxpayer's expense.

The changes were trailed yesterday in a speech by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, to a London conference on legal aid organised by the campaigning Legal Action Group.

The proposals were attacked by the group, who said they targeted "the very poorest sections of society" for cuts in legal aid.

A white paper, to be published next Tuesday, will outline plans for the biggest shake-up of legal aid in its 45-year history.

The legal aid budget will be capped for the first time and fixed regional budgets will be introduced. Solicitors and advice agencies will tender for block contracts to conduct a set number of cases at a fixed amount per case.

The Law Society described the proposals as bad news for the public. Russell Wallman, head of the society's professional policy unit, said: "The Lord Chancellor apparently plans to tighten people out of applying for legal aid by making them risk bankruptcy if their case is lost."

The Bar Council said the plans risked "restitution of choice, the denial of justice to some and the provision of second rate justice to others".

The Lord Chancellor told 900 legal aid lawyers and advice workers that the public had lost confidence in the legal aid scheme.

They had come to see it as "wasting money on too many weak, trivial and undeserving cases, as unfair to the opponents of legally aided people, and as overpriced and inefficient, with taxpayers who would not qualify for legal aid if they sought it nevertheless

paying what look to them like huge lawyers' bills".

Lord Mackay said that judges, court officials who vetted legal bills, lawyers and others had made it clear to him that money was being wasted.

Research from Lord Woolf's inquiry into the civil justice system appeared to show that High Court cases conducted on legal aid took much longer on average and cost more than those which were privately funded.

"Legal aid's reputation is at a dangerously low ebb, and whatever the excuses, whatever the explanations, I am in no doubt that my first task is to take the steps necessary to convince the public we can and will have a scheme which is proof against unfairness and waste."

The reforms will include a new, tighter test for deciding which cases merit public funding, but Lord Mackay said he would not expect this to exclude "well founded" cases.

Adjusting the rules to make the litigant on legal aid and the Legal Aid Board more liable for a winning opponent's costs would discourage speculative cases.

The board would remain heavily reliant on the legal aid applicant's lawyers in de-

termining whether to grant aid. As now, the lawyers would be understandably keen to do the best for their client and would err on the optimistic side if the client had everything to lose and nothing to lose by litigating.

FREE NOKIA ORANGE CAR KIT WORTH £300

When you buy a Nokia Orange phone and connect to Talk 200 or above before 4 August 1996. This includes installation.

NEW Nokia Orange 5.1



£129.99 (r.r.p.)

- Up to 22 hours standby/80 minutes talk time
- 215 name/number directory
- 4 line menu driven display
- Fax and data compatible
- Rapid travel charger included

Plus all these benefits as standard on all Talk Plans, without exception.

	ORANGE	CELLNET	VODAFONE
national coverage	✓	✓	✓
per second billing	✓	X	X
inclusive talk time	✓	X	X
Answer Phone	✓	✓	✓
free itemised billing	✓	X	X
12 months free insurance	✓	X	X
3 year phone warranty	✓	X	X
free switching between tariffs	✓	X	X
24 hour phone replacement	✓	X	X
Caller id	✓	X	X
14 day money back guarantee	✓	X	X

AVAILABLE FROM:



Ask in-store for details.

Subject to status and connection to a new number via Orange Personal Communications Services Limited.

orange



est ster

aper 'wz suicide

HEAT

SUMMER SALE NOW ON

100 GERRARD STREET GUILDFORD

Saudi explosion highlights foreign military presence as allies desperately seek someone to blame

Achilles' heel of West exposed



Christopher: 'US will not be deterred from mission'

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

BY TARGETING United States servicemen in Saudi Arabia's oil capital, Dhahran, on Tuesday night, the bombers struck at the West's most sensitive, and visible, presence in the kingdom.

It was an attack calculated to send a shiver through every foreign capital with interests in the stability of this strategic peninsula, which produces 8 million barrels of oil a day.

The stationing of nearly 3,000 US servicemen at the King Abdul-Aziz air base is both a symbol of the Gulf's dependence on Western protection and, for the industrialised world, the best guarantee that

It was an attack calculated to send a shiver through every foreign capital with regional interests

Saudi oil will continue to flow. The services along with smaller contingents from Britain and France are the successors of the vast allied coalition force assembled in 1990 under a United Nations mandate to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait.

The US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, interrupted a tour of the Middle East and Europe to fly to Saudi Arabia. He told reporters the bombing "will not deter the United States from carrying out in any way the mission for which it has come".

Earlier, in Cairo he said: "The attack emphasises once again the need for coordinated action against the scourge of terrorism." He also referred pointedly to the attack on "US coalition servicemen".

But for Islamic fundamentalists, the men are evidence of the corruption of the Arab world — a permanent merce-

nary force deployed to protect oil supplies.

Dhahran is the headquarters of the Saudi Aramco oil operation. It is also the rear base from which the Gulf war was fought and any future military intervention would be mounted. The wells, refineries and tanker terminals of this eastern province supply 11 per cent of the world's oil.

The bombing had no immediate effect on oil production or export operations, but prompted a price rise of 20 cents a barrel. About a quarter of the world's remaining oil reserves lie beneath the same stretch of desert.

The main role of the US-led forces at Dhahran is to enforce a UN-backed "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq, where Shiite communities and the marsh Arabs of the Tigris-Euphrates River confluence have been under brutal pressure from the forces of President Saddam Hussein.

F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft from the 33rd and 78th US fighter wings operate from the Saudi base, together with a US army unit manning Patriot air defence missiles, and a signals battalion.

The eight-story accommodation block blasted by explosives packed into a fuel truck is one of about 40 such buildings, housing British, French, Saudi and US servicemen near the base. The Royal Air Force, like its US counterpart, has been there since the end of the 1951 war — "almost a forgotten force" as one senior officer put it yesterday.

The present RAF detachment consists of six Tornado GR1s from 9 Squadron at Bruggen, in Germany, which use a thermal imaging system to monitor Iraqi military activity in southern Iraq. They are supported by a VC-10 aerial tanker based in nearby Bahrain. No British or French casualties were reported after the bombing, but the RAF said it would be tightening security.

to overthrow its government.

More likely, several Arab analysts said, the truth was that the bombing was carried out by one of the myriad clandestine Islamic opposition groups operating in the kingdom.

In the last two years, Saudi Arabia has seen a growth of Islamic groups using fax machines, and now bombs, to put their message across. Saudi opposition politics began with Mohammed al-Mas'ari of the Committee of the Defence for Legitimate Rights, now based in London. There are much more radical groups operating underground at home.

Culled largely from the



Morning after... Rescue and security workers sift through the rubble left by the bomb attack on the US Air Force base in Dhahran. PHOTOGRAPH: AP/WIDE WORLD

Gulf states search for Dhahran bombers

Islamic groups may be behind the attack, report Kathy Evans and Shyam Batia

THE United States and its Gulf allies began casting around the region yesterday for the groups, or states, to blame for the Dhahran bombing, which claimed 19 American lives and 254 casualties.

A small but unknown group claimed responsibility for the attack yesterday, but this did not stop fingers being pointed at the Gulf's public enemy number one, Iran.

Iranian officials dismissed the speculation as "another attempt by undemocratic and corrupt states" to blame internal unrest on external forces. Last month, the neighbouring Gulf state of Bahrain accused Iran of attempting

lower ranks of society, their numbers have been supplemented by Saudi veterans of the Afghan war, whose cause was once supported by the West. Today, Afghan veterans form the backbone of militant groups threatening the governments of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and other Arab states.

This loose network of groups, known as the *jihadis*, are committed to the removal of US and other Western forces from the holy land of Islam, Saudi Arabia. All are critical of the pro-Western policies of the ruling al Saud family, and view the economic and social policies of the conservative regime as un-Islamic.

"The *jihadi* groups are the lunatic fringe of Islamic fundamentalism. They reject modernism, democ-

racy as *kafir* (heathen). They are very dangerous," a Saudi expert on Islamic groups said.

One of the acknowledged leaders of the *jihadi* trend is Abu Mohammed al-Maqdisi, an Islamic scholar currently in jail in Jordan. He was visited several times by one of the bombers who confessed to last November's explosion at a US military mission in Riyadh.

That bombing, like the Dhahran attack, was preceded by several warnings to the US and British embassies, threatening attacks on Western forces in the kingdom. The November bombing was claimed by two previously unknown groups, the Tigers of the Gulf and the Movement for Islamic Change. Tuesday's attack in Dhahran appeared to be a carbon copy of the Riyadh

Israeli leader hits out at Syria

Shyam Batia in Jerusalem

HOURS after three Israeli soldiers were killed by an ambush on the border with Jordan, the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, accused Syria of supporting Middle East terrorism.

"Jordan itself is suffering from terrorist operations. At last week's Arab summit in Cairo, Jordan accused Syria of supporting terror," he said.

"Turkey has also accused Syria of indirectly orchestrating terrorist attacks. We in Israel know that the Hizbullah terror operates with a Syrian licence."

The soldiers were attacked by guerrillas who managed to cross the border. Two other soldiers were wounded.

An Israeli army spokesman said: "A number of terrorist opened fire at very close range at an Israeli border patrol vehicle. Another patrol vehicle sighted the terrorists and shot at them. The terrorists returned fire, but the attackers fled into Jordan."

The Damascus-based Palestinian National Liberation Organisation, a group that split from the PLO Fatah faction, claimed from Beirut that a unit of its fighters had clashed with the Israeli patrol.

Since Mr Netanyahu's victory in last May's elections, the Syrian government has been trying to forge a new alliance of Arab reactionists opposed to peace and normalisation with the Jewish state.

Mr Netanyahu's predecessor, Shimon Peres, was more conciliatory towards the Syrians. Mr Netanyahu called for international political and economic pressure on Damascus. He said he had discussed the Syrian threat with the visiting United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher.

He said: "I talked about the need to convey to Damascus, to the government of Syria, that we do not intend to play according to the Syrian rules. We do not intend to enter peace talks, which we hope to advance, while at the same time becoming victims of a terrorist war waged by Syria's proxy."

He said the government of Syria's president, Hafez al-Assad, had given backing to Hizbullah and several Palestinian terrorist groups, including the PFLP and Islamic Jihad, and noted that all the groups involved in terrorist attacks against Israelis had headquarters in Damascus.

He said: "The Syrians must understand that this will lead to a new Israeli policy which I believe will succeed in mobilising important international elements. They will tell Syria this game is behind us."

● A leading Palestinian human rights activist jailed for 17 days by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority was released yesterday after international criticism over his detention. Iyad Sarraj, aged 53, said he had been tortured.

News in brief

Deserts pose famine risk

AFRICA will face mass starvation unless farmers, politicians and aid agencies join forces to halt the growth of deserts, a United Nations conference was told yesterday.

Mr Jeff Odera, author of the document and a Nairobi-based consultant for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, told the conference in Lisbon that unless governments act in partnership with farmers, aid agencies and the private sector to halt the desertification of Africa, a catastrophe will result.

Desertification stemmed from the expansion of agriculture, inappropriate farming methods and overgrazing, he said.

Africa's rapidly growing population had forced villagers to strip the land in order to feed themselves, Mr Odera told the delegates.

Villagers should be trained and empowered to control their own agricultural resources more efficiently. — Reuter.

UN to investigate New York police 'abuses'

THE United Nations Human Rights Commission has announced that it is to begin an inquiry into the New York Police Department after Amnesty International released a 73-page report detailing a pattern of abuse and excessive force within the NYPD.

"Amnesty International has received disturbing allegations of the ill-treatment of suspects, deaths in custody and unjustified shootings by officers," the report says.

"The number of people bringing claims for police misconduct against the city of New York has increased substantially in recent years, from 977 in 1987 to more than 2,000 in 1994." The report also found that the vast majority of abuse claims were lodged in Black, Latino and Asian neighbourhoods.

This is the third Amnesty report on allegations of police abuse in the United States. It has investigated police forces in Chicago and Los Angeles. — New York Times.

Ex-CIA chief backs Dole

The Republican presidential contender, Bob Dole, yesterday picked up an endorsement from James Woolsey, who served for two years as CIA director under President Bill Clinton.

The endorsement of Mr Woolsey, who ran the Central Intelligence Agency from early 1993 until the end of 1994, came one day after Mr Dole had made a scathing attack on Mr Clinton's foreign policy. — Reuter.

PM sworn in

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was sworn in as Afghanistan's new prime minister yesterday after returning to Kabul amid

Somali clashes

At least nine people were killed and 21 wounded in clan violence in Mogadishu following a brief lull at the end of three days of faction fighting, Somali officials said. — Reuter.

Khmer killings

Khmer Rouge guerrillas who abducted scores of workers at a remote logging site in the Cambodian province of Kampong killed 14 of their captives with axes, a human-rights group said. — AP.

Gay go-ahead

The Unitarian Universalist Church has voted to support legal recognition of gay marriages, the first major religious denomination in the United States to do so. — AP.

Tuberculosis peril

The World Health Organisation and a team of interna-

Che friend returns

The remains of a Cuban who fought and was killed before the legendary guerrilla Ernesto "Che" Guevara during an abortive uprising in Bolivia 29 years ago have been returned to Cuba, official media said. — Reuter.

Some of his predictions are of breath-taking accuracy, like when he placed his bet that five named towns in Britain would have snow on Christmas Day, and four of them did.

Peter Lennon

Filegate inquiry seeks fall-guys

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE props, the scenery, the cast looked familiar. The heavy oak witnesses' desk, with its rows of microphones, have been the furniture of countless dramas — starting with the anti-communist McCarthy hearings of the 1950s.

And hanging over it all was the memory of the Big One, the finest performance produced by the United States Congress and its unique brand of theatre: Watergate.

The House government reform and oversight committee had come to the Rayburn Building to find the truth about Filegate — the burgeoning scandal over several hundred secret FBI files on leading Republicans, improperly obtained by the White House.

Facing them were five witnesses. One was Bernard Nussbaum, the sacked White House lawyer who had acted as counsel to the committee which investigated Watergate.

Yesterday he was on the other side, fending off a determined Republican attempt to cast him as a player in a latter-day Nixon White House. "Let me be clear," he said in his fiercest New York lawyer lilt, "in the Clinton White House I knew there was no espionage list, there was no deliberate misuse of private government information, there was no digging up of dirt from government files to use against political opponents."

With that, Mr Nussbaum summarised the charge against him and his bosses more succinctly even than his

accusers. For yesterday, Republicans sought to expose the Clinton White House as a sleaze-pit, dirtier than any since Richard Nixon's. And everyone knows what happened to him.

Testimony came next from Craig Livingstone, the former "nightclub security official" at the centre of Filegate — the man who allegedly ordered the FBI to hand over perhaps 700-plus secret dossiers on Republicans.

Mr Livingstone scowled nervously as he read his prepared statement. He repeated his insistence that it was all an "entirely innocent mistake," the result of a computer's production of an out-of-date list of White House passholders.

Even so, he apologised to those whose files — which contain often-unproven and intimate details of people's private lives — he might have read. Then he announced he had formally resigned as director of personnel security at the White House.

You had to feel for him. Republicans tore into him, noting that he had a history of drug use, describing him as a henchman and dirty trickster, guilty of "colossal incompetence".

Democrats were no kinder. One of them reminding him of the example of Admiral Mike Boorda, who recently had the decency to kill himself for his perceived act of dishonour. At the very least Mr Livingstone should apologise abjectly to the nation, the congressman suggested — hinting that the former bouncer really ought to turn to the revolver.

All in all, yesterday's performance was proof of a rule in Washington drama: the one role you never want is fall-guy.

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

releasing information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to those companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE

The Guardian

Hong Kong

forward

W

THE DIS

T

OKO LAW

Sensario

OKO LAW

Sensario

OKO LAW

Sensario

OKO LAW

Sensario

OKO LAW

Sensario

OKO LAW

Sensario

OKO LAW

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Hong Kong's 'quislings' look forward to return of the past

In the first of three articles marking the handover of the territory on June 30 next year, **Andrew Higgins** reports on how Beijing has found turncoats prepared to reinvent Britain's colonial rule

WHILE ONLY a year to go before the sun sets on the last big outpost of the British empire, Lo Takshing makes no apology for scurrying to avoid the approaching darkness.

Instead, he boasts of how nimbly he has managed to discard his family's tradition of loyalty to the Crown to emerge as an ardent member of the new Hong Kong elite cherishing Britain's imperial retreat.

"The fact is that we all have to do it," says Mr Lo. "It is the proper thing to do. It is the only thing to do."

His grandfather, a prosperous merchant, worked with Jardines, Hong Kong's "princely hong" of opium-smuggling infamy. His father, a prominent lawyer, was knighted by the Queen.

Educated at Wadham College, Oxford, Mr Lo followed the family tradition, joining a select group of local Chinese groomed, trusted and rewarded by Britain. He sat on the governor's inner circle, on the secretive Executive Council, and on the then unelected legislature.

When Margaret Thatcher handed Hong Kong back to China in 1994, he shouted betrayal and set up a company to help people emigrate.

However, with the ink on Mrs Thatcher's signature barely dry, Mr Lo hurried to Beijing. "All I knew about the Chinese came from British briefing," the lawyer, aged 61, says. "I wanted to see things for myself."

Communist Party officials welcomed him with banquets and provided a grand villa.

"Rightly or wrongly, the agreement that was made

requires everybody in Hong Kong to do this, to switch from one sovereign to another sovereign," he says. "It was not easy for many of us to make the switch — I agree it is a switch."

He has now discarded his British passport, dropped his title of Commander of the British Empire and become a Chinese citizen. All he has retained is the Oxbridge accent.

And to cap his conversion, he has declared his candidacy for the post of chief executive.



As Hong Kongers scrambled for foreign passports, Lo Takshing traded his British passport for a Chinese one

the Beijing appointees who will take over from the Hong Kong governor, Chris Patten, at the stroke of midnight on June 30 next year.

Mr Lo claims the "switch" he pioneered and since mimicked by others in Hong Kong's establishment is to a new master and does not affect his vision of the colony.

Whether quislings or pragmatic patriots, this elite embraces a peculiarly archaic view of the territory's future: a return to the cozy colonial patterns of the past, an era when local grandees obeyed

orders from a distant capital untroubled by public debate and party politics.

China has a similar vision. "Hong Kong has always been an economic centre, not a political centre," says the Xinhua news agency chief, Zhou Nan, China's senior official in the territory. "In this, the advantage of the territory lies."

For Beijing, colonial-style decision-making offers encouraging echoes of the Communist Party's own habits of secrecy and obedience. Among China's plans for

Hong Kong after 1997 is the resurrection of colonial-era restrictions on assembly and draconian legislation since deleted from the statute book.

Dorothy Liu, a member of the National People's Congress and daughter of a distinguished pro-China physician, used to count herself one of Beijing's most fervent supporters in the colony. Now she spits with rage at the turncoats and China's eagerness to woo them. "These people always want to be on the side of power. They were very pro-British when the British had

power. Now they are very pro-Chinese. They are pro whoever has power."

When a million people took to the streets of China in 1989 to protest the Tiananmen Square massacre, Mr Lo rushed to Beijing to show his support. When China complained of hostile coverage in the Hong Kong press, he set up a magazine to cheer the approach of Chinese rule.

When Hong Kongers scrambled for foreign passports, he traded his British passport for a Chinese one.

In the run-up to 1997, China has put decision-making in the hands of secretive bodies as unresponsive and unaccountable as any 19th-century colonial enclave. The Preparatory Committee, on which Mr Lo and other defectors and businessmen now sit, is so divorced from Hong Kong society that a poll published this week found 83 per cent expressed little or no confidence in its work.

With a year to go, the struggle in Hong Kong is no longer between China and Britain, or communism and capitalism, but between two visions of Hong Kong itself as a compliant, apolitical and stunted territory, or as a more sophisticated, vibrant and less docile society.

A landslide victory for the Democratic Party in last year's elections suggests support for the second view, as does the public's apparent antipathy for resurrected colonial rules — according to an opinion poll this week, only 1.4 per cent want Mr Lo as their chief executive.

"Perhaps this is the Western form of democracy," says Mr Lo, referring to political changes accelerated by Mr Patten. "But it is fundamentally different from what we were doing before. It is not the system under which Hong Kong was run."

Next: How to become Chinese



Go, move, shift... Tears roll down the cheek of a Filipina girl as she watches her shanty home in Manila being torn down by a government demolition crew. Slum dwellers claim the authorities are driving them out to beautify the capital in advance of the November summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum. PHOTOGRAPHY: ENIK DE CASTRO

Nigeria is left unpunished

Ken Black
Diplomatic Editor

COMMONWEALTH foreign ministers came in for sharp criticism yesterday for failing to take action against Nigeria despite its refusal to address concerns about democracy and human rights.

The Commonwealth ministerial "action group" agreed on Tuesday not to impose previously threatened sanctions on the West African country, although Canada announced it would unilaterally ban arms exports and sporting contacts.

Diplomats spoke of frustration at Nigeria's evasion of punitive action after the international outrage that followed the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni activists during the Auckland Commonwealth summit last November.

"It was appalling, complete mismanagement," a British official said. "The Nigerians just ran rings round the Commonwealth. They showed their power and their arrogance."

"Because of the lack of a unified Commonwealth approach, the Nigerians turned the meeting around and presented the Commonwealth as the transgressor in having had the audacity to suspend Nigeria."

The group was chaired by the foreign minister of Zimbabwe. Other participants were Malaysia, Jamaica, Ghana, Britain, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.

The former Commonwealth secretary-general, Sonny Ramphal, criticised the decision not to impose sanctions.

"I'm troubled that more did not come out of what was described as a ministerial action group. It was the epitome of inaction. What was agreed between the group and the Nigerian delegation was very feeble and puny."

Tony Lloyd, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, said: "The British government has put narrow short-term interests before its long-term interests, and certainly before the interests of the Nigerian people who suffer daily at the hands of this brutal and vicious regime."

"The Foreign Office must end its dithering and confusion over what policy to take and must send clear and firm messages to the Nigerian people that its illegitimacy will no longer be tolerated."

A joint communiqué at the end of the talks agreed to hold off on sanctions until the committee meets in September.

Nigeria had been asked to accelerate its three-year transition to civilian democracy and provide firm guarantees on safeguarding human rights. Neither emerged from the London meeting.

Britain and others strongly oppose the idea of sanctions, especially an embargo on oil sales, saying the steps would be virtually unenforceable and would harm ordinary Nigerians.

A strike by tanker drivers led to panic buying for fuel yesterday in the Nigerian capital, Lagos, motorists and officials said. Queues of vehicles, stretching hundreds of yards, formed at many petrol stations as motorists tried to fill up. The tanker drivers are striking in protest at a ban on parking their trucks under flyovers.

Save money on the quiet.

THE QUIETEST DISHWASHER IN THE WORLD



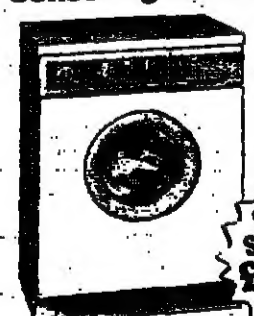
ÖKO-FAVORIT 6040 Dishwasher

- Super quiet design — only 45 dB — the quietest dishwasher in the world
- 6 programme dishwasher including Intensive and Economy wash
- Unique BIO-wash programmes — 65°C results using only 50°C

SUMMER SALE PRICE £499.99

ÖKO LAVAMAT 6555 Sensorlogic Washing machine

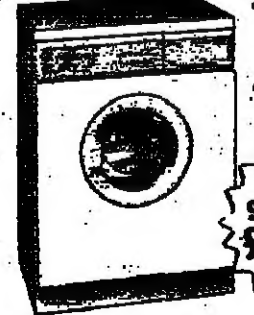
- New unique Stain-Action programme
- Fuzzy-Logic control system for quicker wash times and lowest running costs
- 20+ wash programmes incl. Quickwash and gentle Wool-Cradle



SUMMER SALE PRICE £669.99

ÖKO LAVAMAT 6100 Washing machine

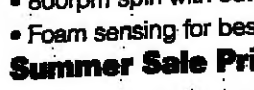
- Digitronic control system for excellent wash results with low running costs
- 19 wash programmes including Quickwash and gentle Wool-Cradle



SUMMER SALE PRICE £489.99

ÖKO LAVAMAT 600 Washing machine

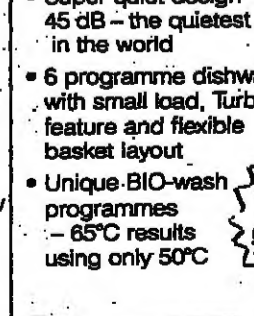
- 17 wash programmes including Quickwash
- 800rpm spin with out-of-balance control
- Foam sensing for best rinse result



Summer Sale Price £419.99 RRP £469.99

ÖKO FAVORIT 6069 Dishwasher

- Super quiet design — only 45 dB — the quietest dishwasher in the world
- 6 programme dishwasher with small load, Turbo-drying feature and flexible basket layout
- Unique BIO-wash programmes — 65°C results using only 50°C



SUMMER SALE PRICE £549.99

ÖKO-FAVORIT 4040 Dishwasher

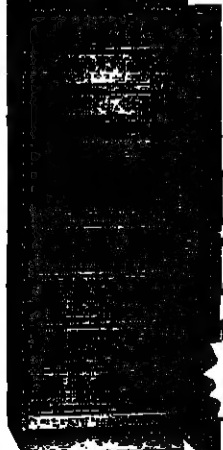
- Super quiet design — only 47dB
- The quietest 4-programme dishwasher available
- Unique BIO-wash programmes — 65°C results using only 50°C



SUMMER SALE PRICE £399.99

SANTO 3534KG Fridge/Freezer

- Two-compressor design for quieter and improved all-round performance
- Low running cost — energy efficiency category 'C'
- 6.8/4.9 cu. ft. gross capacity



SUMMER SALE PRICE £589.99

SANTO 2492KG No-frost Fridge/Freezer

- Frost-free freezer compartment — no need to defrost ever again
- Soft-line design
- 6.2/2.3 cu. ft. gross capacity



SUMMER SALE PRICE £459.99

Available from good independent electrical retailers, selected Electricity Companies and Co-op Societies, Alders, Apollo, Bentalls, Currys, Harrods, House of Fraser, John Lewis, Miller Bros, Power People, Selfridges, Tempo and other leading department stores. For your nearest outlet call 01753 872589.

Advanced Engineering from Germany



Wimbledon Matchline

Latest Scores and Results
Top player's results to date
0891 700 326

Visitorline
Getting there • Weather outlook •
Order of play • Booking tickets for '97
0891 700 327

Faxline
Knockout chart • Order of play • Visitor info
0891 662 218

Calls cost 30p/min cheap rate. 40p/min at all other times. Helpline: 0171 715 4473. Service supplied by Greenland Interactive, 4 Greenland Place, London NW10AP.

Sport@The Guardian

Freezing the reforms

Major sets the Tories against real change

WHERE HAS John Major been for the last 10 years? "This must be the most thorough debate on the constitution for a generation", he told the Centre for Policy Studies last night. "It is right that we should have it." What does he think the rest of us have been doing for much of the 1990s? Why does he think that the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats, reflecting that long-running and extensive debate, have spent long hours examining principles and practicalities? What does he think Charter 88 is about? Why does he think that the Constitution Unit, which unburdened itself of a further three reports on detailed issues this week, has been toiling so usefully all these months?

Let us, though, accentuate the positive. Five years ago, Mr Major would not have said this debate was necessary at all: he would have dismissed the whole constitutional argument as fundamentally irrelevant. Now he has been forced to respond and acknowledge that it exists. So, better late than never. But that is as much of a cheer as he deserves. His speech yesterday showed the Prime Minister well adrift. He is on the wrong side of the line on an agenda which is widely, and rightly, seen outside the Conservative Party as one of the largest tests of this country's capacity for modernisation.

There is a basic disjunction in Mr Major's approach. When he speaks of "a living constitution that changes with the times", of the need to avoid "change for change's sake", and his preference for "practical change, not grand plans", he appears to take a sensible, progressive stance on the need for necessary reform. But then he speaks, almost in the same breath, of "pointless fiddling" that would "unravel our way of life" and "unravel what generations of our predecessors have created". This is not serious stuff. The progressive in Mr Major is ensnared by the reactionary,

the Whig in him by the Tory. Like every diehard opponent of all progressive change throughout our history, he defends the institutional status quo, because "it works" and is "our tradition, our heritage".

The result was that, with the exception of a whip's wish list to restructure the parliamentary year, Mr Major had nothing very interesting to say about the British constitution last night. Because he is a man who disposes immense power within the existing system and because he has never been in opposition, he is blind to the constitution's faults, small and large. Because he is not merely English, but south London English, he finds it hard to understand not just the north but the other nations of the United Kingdom. He is unable to bring a radical, democratic impulse to bear on the long list of institutional and cultural changes which make up the modernising agenda on constitutional matters. The result is that, in spite of Mr Major's pleasant words about practical evolution, he has actually set the Conservative Party uncharacteristically against all meaningful change.

The contrast between this and the progressive approach of the opposition parties was highlighted in speeches yesterday by Paddy Ashdown and Jack Straw. And it will be underlined again today when Labour confirms that it will hold referendums early in the new Parliament to give enhanced democratic legitimacy to their devolution plans in Scotland and Wales. Far from being a sign of uncertainty, this is a vote of confidence in the importance of these changes. Those who believe that the only form of political legitimacy is a general election or a vote at Westminster show yet again that they do not understand the scale of the task which is needed to rebuild confidence in our political institutions and civic culture.



Letters to the Editor

Labour's other bombshell

SO MR BLAIR is prepared to push the nuclear button (Labour takes up nuclear challenge, June 26). At his press conference, he said he is prepared to do this "whilst we [presumably Britain] are under any type of threat elsewhere in the world". This is a little vague. Will Mr Blair please clarify which of the following meets this criteria:

- The Faroe Islands announce a blockade of all UK fish products;
- A plague of Libyan locusts is spotted by radar heading towards East Angles;
- A new species of ready-jelled Polish eel decimates East End trade?

Answers on a postcard to the electorate. Janet Bloomfield, Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 182 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.

I AM writing about your report concerning the interception of communications and the resources available to the security services ("IRA helped" by cuts in phone taps, June 19). I have not expressed to the Prime Minister or to anyone else, either publicly or privately, concerns that the security services and intelligence agencies do not have enough resources to discharge their functions properly. Any suggestion to the contrary misinterprets my report. Rt Hon Lord Nolan, Commissioner, Interception of Communications Act, Law Lords Corridor, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW.

IN view of the fact that the early success of the England football team was being used as propaganda by some Euro-sceptics, I would like to point out the following. Of the 16 teams that qualified for Euro 96, the ratio of EU/non-EU teams was nine to seven. In the first round, the top team in each group belonged to an EU member country, the bottom team from a non-EU country. The average points-and-goals statistics for the first round were as follows: for EU teams - 5.44 points, 4.11 goals; for non-EU teams - 2.29 points, 2.57 goals. The ratio of EU/non-EU teams in the quarter and semi-finals was three to one. The EU has, however, had an unfair advantage: the competition is named after its currency. B Clark, Holzgeringen, Germany.

AS I listened to the voice of Gillian Shephard on Tuesday, telling us how she was going to reorganise education yet again, I suddenly realised where I'd heard it before. It is the voice of Linda Snell, reorganiser of Ambridge. Dave Headley, 44 Corwell Road, Farington SN7 7JX.

Karadzic, your time is up

THE continued presence in Bosnia of Radovan Karadzic, Ratko Mladic and other indicted war criminals is poisoning the peace process, threatening the forthcoming elections, and undermining the authority and viability of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. UN Security Council Resolution 1031 charged the International Implementation Force (I-FOR) with ensuring compliance with the Dayton peace agreement, which includes a requirement that all parties co-operate with the tribunal. Article 29 of the tribunal's statute sets forth the various forms of co-operation that are due, including "the identification and location of persons", "the arrest or detention of persons", and "the surrender or the transfer of the accused to the international tribunal". With the Bosnian government threatening to pull out of the elections if Karadzic and Mladic are not apprehended, and Chief Prosecutor Richard Goldstone expressing increasing concern about the fate of the tribunal without their apprehension, securing the arrest and surrender of these two mass murderers should be the western governments' top priority in Bosnia. However, western leaders continue to block the use of I-FOR troops to arrest indicted war criminals. Indeed, failure to bring these men to trial places many more lives at risk in Bosnia and elsewhere, by sending the signal that there is no price to be paid for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, whether committed against civilians or international troops. The presence in office of the very individuals responsible for massive abuses over the past four years has ensured that hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally-displaced people cannot return home and that political opportunities for anyone but hard-line nationalists are sharply limited. Freedom of the press

and assembly is severely curtailed and violence against ethnic minorities and opposition figures is on the rise. National elections - a key step in the peace process - cannot meaningfully take place so long as Karadzic and Mladic remain at large. We urge European heads of state to order the troops under their command to make an immediate and urgent priority of locating these fugitives and identifying circumstances when I-FOR can arrest them on favourable terms. Jan Willem Bertens, Willy de Clerq, Baroness Caroline Cox, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Otto von Habsburg, (Prof) Jasminka Kavacic, Glenys Kinnock MEP, Bernard Kouchner, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Michel Rocard, Rt Hon Sir David Steel, Simon Wiesenthal, and 178 other signatories, c/o Human Rights Watch, 35 Islington High Street, London N1 9LH.

Let's ride cars off the roads

JON SNOW (Pedal power on the school run, June 25) mentions only some of the menaces traffic poses for children. Like the rest of us, they breathe the toxic cocktail of fumes emitted by the cars keeping them off the street. Asthma rates are soaring, especially among the young, and traffic fumes have been linked to this rise. Many other respiratory diseases are also on the increase. Surely we should look at reducing the current levels of traffic. Keeping levels the same is not enough: current levels are too high already. New low-emission engines will help with fumes, but make no difference to our children's freedom or health. (Dr) S Hill, 5 Leopold Mews, London E9 7NL.

I WOULD also argue, pace Jon Snow, for an increase in petrol duty in real terms by, say, 30 per cent every year, and for the money raised to be spent on better and cheaper buses, trams and trains. An increase in the number of pelican crossings is also needed, and these should not make pedestrians wait - they should begin to change as soon as the button is pressed. This is all part of a vital change in attitude that puts pedestrians, cyclists and public-transport users (all of us) first, and car owners (less than one third of us) last. Richard Mountford, 76 Springfield Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7DY.

JON Snow should remember that we already have a network of cycle lanes that cover the whole country, reach almost every house and go past every school. They are called roads. Why they should be taken over by cars beats me. If we had decent public transport, planning regulations aimed at reducing the need to travel and a government interested in alternatives to the car, roads would be safe enough to cycle on. Martyn Williams, Warren House, Bodfari, Denbigh, Clwyd.

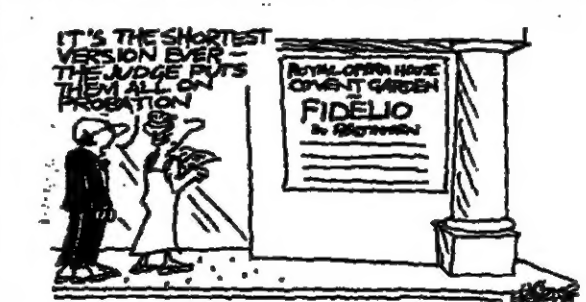
There is a national 24-hour postal strike from noon today. But we are confident that our readers will use technology, and ingenuity, to communicate with us as usual. Please use our fax number (0171 837 4530), or the letterpage e-mail address: letters@guardian.co.uk (e-mail letters should include a postal address)

Eggs ahead

CATHERINE Bennett is right in calling for more consumer protection (Continuing scandal of the food we eat, June 25). In the mid-sixties, I was deputy commercial director of the British Egg Marketing Board. Unfortunately, with our proposed membership of the EEC, BEMB was reduced to the Egg Authority, with no real power.

Before this, however, we controlled operation, with area offices and an excellent staff of inspectors. Our rules were very strict on seconds, feed and even clean eggs. Our inspectors were greatly feared and anyone transgressing was punished by severe fines. The result was freedom from salmonella and disease.

Of course there were difficulties with producers, but these were subjective rather than objective: a result of farmers' opposition to any kind of control. However, the industry produced cheap and healthy eggs. A further safeguard for the public was that eggs could be returned seven days after the packing date and a full refund claimed. Such a system of tight rules, controls and inspections for beef would have prevented BSE from appearing or at least spreading to the present frightening level. Donald Telford, Sandy Cross House, Seale Lane, Seale, Farnham, Surrey GU10 1LE.



An operatic tragedy, by Verdi

ANDREW Clements says post-nuclear-attack corpses into tranches? By comparison with these and other atrocities, this production of Giovanina d'Arco, though no great shakes, is a masterpiece. Rt Hon Gerald Kaufman MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Cutbacks may damage our health

AS A result of government funding restrictions, the Medical Research Council has withdrawn all funding next year for medical and dental students doing an intercalated BSc, a year's course spent studying the science research which underlies medicine and dentistry. This will probably be made permanent if MRC funding is not increased. Medical education is currently undergoing a revolution based on the notion that evidence-based medicine will drive decision-making by doctors during their careers. The abolition of funding allowing the most able students to be exposed to experimental research, rather than simply being taught the facts which result from it, must run counter to this notion. Acquaintance with research methodology is extremely valuable in allowing future doctors and dentists to assess the therapeutic claims of the pharmaceutical industry and of other health professionals. Indeed, research published in the British Medical Journal concluded that "the intercalated BSc is of real importance in developing a cadre of trained research workers for the future," and that "a substantial reduction in the number of undergraduates having the opportunity to intercalate [a BSc] would certainly have an impact on the number of highly-trained clinical researchers." It is hard to reconcile the policy of the MRC with this view. (Prof) David Attwell, University College, London. (Dr) Richard Boyd, University of Oxford, The Physiological Society, PO Box 506, Oxford OX1 3XR.

When privatisation goes nuclear

The sale of British Energy is the least justified of them all

YESTERDAY'S prospectus for the privatisation of British Energy does nothing to allay fears of a rush to give the Treasury a quick financial fix leaving later administrations to pick up the tab. Almost everything about this privatisation is questionable. The industrial logic is doubtful because the company's entire assets consist of eight nuclear power stations. BE has no intention of building any more - so its future lies in diversification which has so far proved disastrous for most other utilities. The Government can't make up its mind how much BE is worth, yet at the highest end of its estimates (£1.96 billion) the company, after billions of earlier write-offs, will be worth about £1 billion less than the cost of building one of its own power stations. A low price alone won't make the shares attractive to punters weaned on instant profits from privatisation. So individual "investors" will get 5p a share compared with institutional ones and another 10p discount for those who have registered in advance. BE guarantees a highly unusual £96 million in dividends this year even though profits are expected to be only half of this. The Government deludes itself if it thinks that privatisation bribes like these have turned Britain into a nation of true shareholders. Far from encouraging what the country needs - more risk investment - it breeds short-termism in which people only buy if assured of freakishly high gains. Unsurprisingly, a huge proportion of shareholders sell

their privatised shares and hardly ever buy other shares apart from privatisation issues. As a result, the proportion of shares held by individuals (as opposed to institutions) has dropped sharply during the past 15 years. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, claimed yesterday that privatisation would improve the economic efficiency of BE. But will it? BE's productivity almost doubled between 1990 and 1994 even though privatisation wasn't on the agenda for much of that time. It also became the world-leader in capacity utilisation. There is undoubtedly scope for improvements in efficiency but they are unlikely to be on the scale achieved under public ownership. Instead, there are worries that future manpower run-downs could compromise the industry's ability - which it takes very seriously - to cope with safety risks. There are large unresolved questions about whether BE will pay for all of its potentially huge problems of waste disposal and decommissioning or whether the taxpayer will be required to cough up more. Yesterday's report in the Guardian that scientific staff at BE were worried about problems with uranium fuel in the heart of the reactors adds more uncertainty. The risks and environmental problems attached to nuclear power demand very long-term thinking which sits ill-at-ease with a privatisation culture demanding ever-higher dividends each year. British Energy is the least justified of all the privatisations.

Terrorism needs a global reply

The Saudi bomb must be squeezed into the G7 agenda

THE FIRST reports on the Saudi bombing described the horror and devastation at the US military housing area near Dhahran. They were soon followed up by reassurances that the Saudi oil trade had not been disrupted. Business must go on and markets need reassurance. Bombings are terrible events and no one can approve of them. A terrorist attack in this particular country resonates in quite a different way from a bombing carried out in Chechnya or Macedonia or even one of the small Gulf states. The effect is compounded when the attack is directed at a visible (and strangely vulnerable) symbol of the US presence in a region regarded by Washington as of vital strategic importance. Yesterday's chorus of international condemnation was a natural extension of diplomatic solidarity but it does not address the issue. John Major has got it wrong in calling the bombing "an act of pure evil for no reason."

There always is a reason: the task is to find it. It is argued, perhaps correctly, that a massive attempt of this kind could not have been mounted without outside support. Bill Clinton has called - again - for an international effort against terrorism. The discussion now has to be squeezed into the G7 agenda; it will be the third such effort in a year. Suspicion is directed either at Iran or one of the external dissident groups. Yet, even under interrogation, the four Saudis executed for the November bombing only admitted to having been influenced by foreign faxes. The real answer must be sought within Saudi Arabia, where a feudal autocracy corrupted by great wealth offers so many targets for fundamentalist assault. To say that the country needs democracy may seem wildly idealistic. That has not stopped Western governments from demanding it elsewhere.

Kindly re-tune your set to Europe and Asia

MAY I, as a regular contributor of the BBC External Services for 30 years, offer a comment on the controversy concerning the future of the 44 language services for Eastern European countries, most of the other languages services, including Portuguese for Africa and Brazil, French for Africa and Spanish for Latin America. We are now directed to countries conventionally described as developing. We are approaching a time when the European Union should project a single image consistent with its integrationist ideals and interests. Why not explore the possibility of increasing the co-op-

eration and financial support already given by the EU, so that the BBC languages services are gradually turned into a Voice of Europe, equally able to compete with other major international services, at less cost to the British taxpayer? Antonio de Figueiredo, 14 Cromwell Place, London SW14 7HA. THE decision by Rupert Murdoch to place the Chinese by denying BBC TV distribution in Asia via his Indian-based Star TV network (Keeping the gas on the microphone, June 24) means, for example, that BBC TV programmes are no longer available in Cambodia. The BBC World Service became available in Cambodia 24 hours a day, via satellite from Phnom Penh, on AM/FM recently, so to some extent this has offset the news blackout caused by the loss of pictures and news. But unless the BBC takes steps to resume TV coverage in South-east Asia, how will the Chinese, like the Burmese, find out what might really be going on in their own country? Deciding what cannot be broadcast is expected from totalitarian states, but the BBC should do all it can to counter this censorship by Michael Bowen, 2 Late Broads, Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 2NW.

A Country Diary

RIVER WEAR, WOLSWINGHAM: The pink flower spikes of butterbur have withered and given way to leaves of rhubarb proportions. This forest of waist-high foliage makes a perfect riverbank hide, so we sink into its shade and wait to see what turns up. A sandpiper arrives within minutes, skimming low over the water on still wingbeats and settling amongst the small pools left by the retreating river on the far bank. Next, a pair of long-tailed tits work their way through the birches overhead, hanging from the tips of the branches, searching for caterpillars. But they don't hold our attention for long. A family of gosanders is drifting around the bend in the river; eleven brown and buff ducklings working their way between the wet boulders in the shallows, where darting shoals of minnows provide perfect nursery training for gosander fishing skills. They are only yards away when the duck spots us. Pandemonium!

Frantic alarm calls as she stamps her brood to the far side of the river, paddling upstream across the surface on their stumpy, featherless wings. One by one they shoot the rapids like bobbing corks, regrouping around their mother and paddling out of sight. A drowsy stillness descends in the mid-morning heat. The only movement comes from a large brown moth, darting amongst the red campion flowers. When it settles for a few seconds it turns out to be a silver Y, here at least three months ahead of schedule. Over the last few days, a massive early influx of continental painted-lady butterflies has swept into Wearside with the warm weather, offering the unprecedented spectacle of spring-flying orange tips and these side by side. After a finger-numbingly cold spring we seem to be fast-forwarding into high summer. PHIL GATES

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Diary Matthew Norman

I AM intrigued by a Sunday Times story ("MPs get a tiger in their pants") about unnamed MPs using steroids...

THE Diary becomes obsessed with John Fraser MA (Oxon), MP for Reading...

IN the Mail on Sunday, voluble papist Piers Paul Read hits levels of Johnsonian sanity and rationale...

WHERE most politicians pay lip service to a free press, Sir James Goldsmith favours an extremely expensive one...

LATE news. The phone of my colleague Emily Barr rings. "Hello, my dear," says a gruff voice...



The high road that leads to Britain

Commentary Hugo Young

EVOLUTION is not a Scottish problem. There's no doubt that Scotland wants a parliament...

fantastic verdict. Right now, the vanguard issue is Scotland. The one item in Labour's constitutional package...

England matters now. Either the parliamentary passage of devolution or the practical arrangements for it, or both, could be wrecked by English prejudice and ignorance...

source of incessant argument? How can it conceivably be justified that Scots MPs go on voting about policies and bills that apply only to England?

Scotland gets more public money per capita than England. Who will vote to let this go on?

member of the club: the club of the top Labour triumvirate, themselves dis-mandated by the Scottish parliament...

laying for itself, they need to believe the case for decentralising power everywhere else as well.

same in court. The information may, for instance, come from a reliable source but one who for good reason would not wish to testify in court.

Dangers of supping with the US



David Hirst

THREE years ago I ran into a young Saudi pilot at the giant airbase where Tuesday night's truck bomb wrought its deadly havoc...

Saudi Arabia had to foot the bill for every penny of the US contribution to the liberation of Kuwait. It drained their coffers. Yet the Saudis have some on paying through the nose for yet more of those expensive, shiny new weapons...



Sword and shield

This week's vote on the Defamation Bill, prompted by Neil Hamilton's case against the Guardian, helps MPs to sue the press; but, argues Andrew Nicol, they should pass a higher test. Below, Rupert Allason states why he will sue

PARLIAMENT made it easier this week for MPs to sue for libel. Up till now there has not been a complete block...

Good news for the media

WHAT is so odd about the anguish expressed by non-partisan commentators over the decision to allow MPs to waive their parliamentary privilege in libel proceedings is that this is precisely what so many of them have advocated...

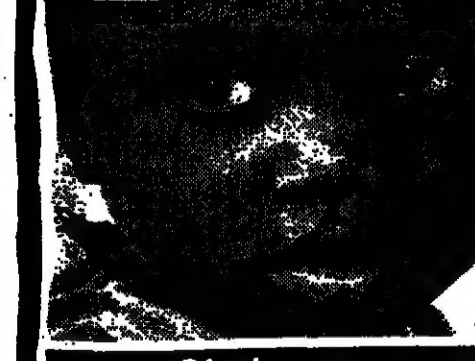
Suppliers of the present law say that politicians, like anyone else, are entitled to protect their reputations from unjustified smears...

The highest courts of Australia and India have applied the essence of the American principle in their judgments. Secondly, the European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly ruled that politicians in a democracy must be broad-shouldered and readier to take criticism than private individuals...

for reporting the activities of politicians or matters of general importance. Suppliers of the present law say that politicians, like anyone else, are entitled to protect their reputations from unjustified smears...

Andrew Nicol QC is a barrister and co-author of Media Law (Longman/Penguin)

Her fourth birthday may well be her last, but she isn't ill



She's poor

In countries like the Gambia, one in four children die before their fifth birthday. The diseases they suffer from differ. But the cause is almost always the same: Poverty.



US sancti

Cos
halt
sha
tra

T

£1m-a

Eastern G
on charge

T

Jackdaw
on charge

Veronica Guerin

Fighter for young lives

SIX MONTHS ago when Veronica Guerin received an International Press Freedom award in New York for "fearlessly covering Ireland's criminal figures" she admitted to a sense of embarrassment. It was just that the four journalists who were honoured alongside her (from Russia, Guatemala, Indonesia and Zambia) had suffered extreme violence at the hands of the authorities. In Guatemala 10 journalists died in 15 years. She felt her own investigations into the Irish underworld pale in comparison. But then yesterday she was shot dead when two men intercepted her car at traffic lights in Dublin. She was 36.

And so did they. Her second run-in with the self-same underworld occurred in January 1994, a day after she had published a lengthy piece on how the chief suspect in Ireland's biggest-ever robbery had availed himself of the country's tax amnesty. She thought this odd, a legitimisation of violence and evil. Her piece questioned how someone could have been embraced by the tax authorities without a rigorous investigation into how the money had been accumulated.

'Those bastards are destroying lives and they are practically untouchable'

She wrote her piece, and the next day she was shot. "I was talking to a friend on the phone and there was a knock at the door," she recalled. "I put the phone down and opened the door. The guy just told her on the phone: the things he said he'd do to her young son if she persisted with her enquiries. They were not nice things. She spoke time and again about her son and how she was terrified. They were, it seemed, in this thing together. And so she persisted. Then, last September, in an unrelated investigation, she

called at a house in Dublin's suburbs. It was 9 am. She wanted to ask the owner how someone just out of prison could have accrued the vast sums of money he had just declared in tax returns. Her knock was answered by a woman, who she identified as the wife of the man she had just called. She was terrified. They were, it seemed, in this thing together. And so she persisted. Then, last September, in an unrelated investigation, she

paper installed a \$25,000 security system in her home and after the September attack she was given a 24-hour police escort. But by December this was cramping her style. "It was stifling, I mean, you can do fuck all if you're trying to be a real reporter," and you've got two guards walking around with you."

Veronica Guerin did her best to make them accountable; to make them that little bit less "untouchable". But yesterday the "bastards" got in touch. And now journalism has lost one of its most unassuming and driven individuals. She was a brave and brilliant reporter. In an age when journalism sometimes seems overly preoccupied with the trivial and the trashy, her work actually mattered. She tackled real lives and real injustices.



Veronica Guerin... 'I just would not give in'

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES MEEHAN

Irving Krick

Forecasting for victory

THEY were still re-fighting the war yesterday and not only at Wembley. The death of the veteran weatherman Dr Irving Krick, re-ignited controversy over his claim to have been the meteorological saviour of the 1944 D-Day invasion.

point that Krick was also in favour of an invasion on June 5, which Eisenhower called off because of bad weather. "It would have been a disaster," Normanton said. Moreover, Krick — as weather expert for US Strategic Air Forces in Europe — was only one of a team of meteorologists who were consulted daily on a scrambler telephone from Southwick House by Dr James Stagg, Eisenhower's senior Met Office adviser. These six had at least four other staff feeding in data. Stagg's book about those



Long-range expert... Krick

frantic days, *Forecasting for Overlord* (1971), says that on June 6 he obtained "experts' agreement" from this team only just in time to brief Eisenhower and fellow-officers. He also records that on June 4 Krick and his deputy, Benny Holzman, were markedly more "optimistic" than others about a June 5 invasion date.

Stagg is remembered as a diplomatic chairman who took pains not to credit or blame either himself or team members. "The credit for these forecasts was beyond doubt collective," said Krick.

and Ogden, who was a Met Office forecaster at the time. As for the pinpointing of June 6, 7 and 8, Ogden said these dates came originally from the Met Office. They were unsurprising because conditions would only have been suitable for one other three-day period in June. "But Krick still thought he had been right all along — and he was a very persuasive character."

Normanton, who went on to become a Conservative MP and company chairman, and to organise the 1994 D-Day celebrations in Hampshire, is now 79. He singled out Stagg's book as "the most valuable recollection of what took place".

Maurice Crewe, librarian of the National Meteorological Archive, said: "Krick may have been right often enough to establish a reputation. But he was also a powerful self-promoter and he was not available yesterday."

Krick, born in San Francisco, was a teenage prodigy concert pianist. He got a physics degree at Berkeley, then went to California Institute of Technology for one of the first US master's and doctoral degrees in meteorology. In 1934 he set up a meteorology department at Caltech.

Two years later he started one of the first private meteorological consulting firms. Holloguy signed on as his first client. His baptism in publicity was to predict the right night for the burning of

Atlanta in *Gone with the Wind*. He also built up his reputation as a rainmaker. Among his specialities was using long-term weather records to produce five-day weather forecasts in contrast to the three-day versions then current elsewhere. For D-Day he drew on 40 years of records.

This, plus his vaunting manner, made him perhaps more suspect than he deserved in Britain. Here it tended to be felt that longer-range predictions, while feasible in the more stable weather patterns of the continental US, were shaky for a changeable island and coastal climate.

One British meteorologist of the time admitted: "We never had a problem for which we needed a five-day forecast until this one (D-Day) turned up. We learned a lot from Dr Krick."

Krick scorned these worries by boasting to a 1971 symposium that his advice had launched a 1,000-bomber raid into Germany in February, 1944, "and it was still snowing at the prime target around Leipzig when the bombers took off." But the target was clear for the drop.

He declared: "We were in such conflict with the British about launching D-Day on June 5. We finally gave up and said the hell with it. Trying to reach a common opinion over scrambler telephones was not the way to do it."

Nicholas John

Light on the opera

NICHOLAS JOHN, the literary manager of ENO and he extended his activities yet further to work directly with conductors, producers and designers from the in-house team of Mark Elder and David Pountney to Jonathan Miller and many others. As a result of this work he produced two books, a collection of essays on *Don Giovanni* and *Violetta and her Sisters*, a book which looked at every aspect of Verdi's *La Traviata* and its literary sources, with contributions from an intriguingly wide range of commentators including Dame Barbara Cartland.

In 1965 the post of dramaturge was made for him at ENO and he extended his activities yet further to work directly with conductors, producers and designers from the in-house team of Mark Elder and David Pountney to Jonathan Miller and many others. As a result of this work he produced two books, a collection of essays on *Don Giovanni* and *Violetta and her Sisters*, a book which looked at every aspect of Verdi's *La Traviata* and its literary sources, with contributions from an intriguingly wide range of commentators including Dame Barbara Cartland.

His visual sense was acute so that all the publications he worked on were designed with a certain amount of value added. At the time of his death he was nearing completion of a *Blue Guide to Operatic Europe* and the *Earl of Harewood* had just asked him to take charge of a new edition of *Robbie's Opera Guide*. This would have given further scope to his mission to inform and enlighten.

As English National opera evolved and changed during the 1980s, Nick was always in the vanguard of new developments, giving invaluable support to both the Baylis Programme and the Contemporary Opera Studio. He believed utterly in opera as a

communicating and life-giving force and would organise party bookings to ENO performances for huge numbers of friends and acquaintances, abandoning sheaves of proofs to rush to Soho for quantities of food and wine which would then be distributed lavishly during the interval. It is almost impossible to imagine an opening night at English National Opera without him.

Henrietta Bradin
David Pountney adds: For a company committed to adventurous work, the quality of its literary back-up — whether programmes, translations or opera guides, is crucial. Nick John was brilliant editor and deviser of programmes whose adventurous and challenging design, content and layout opened the audience's mind to the possibilities of the productions it was about to see.

For the directors of these productions he was a constant source of succinctly digested information and gentle but penetrating criticism. Nick was one of those rare people against whom it was always worth testing a difficult idea: his original and sometimes idiosyncratic mind always provided a pertinent sounding board. We were a raucous and opinionated team of collaborators but Nick's persistence and his passionate commitment to the company's ideals always made their mark. There was no one in London who knew or cared more about truly alive opera performance. His sudden absence is brutal and deeply distressing.

Nicholas John, dramaturge, born August 18 1922; died June 25 1996

Birthdays

Isabelle Adjani, actress, 41; Eustace (ER) Braithwaite, Caribbean writer and diplomat, 74; David Clelland, Labour MP, 53; Alan Coren, writer and broadcaster, 58; Beth Chatto, horticulturist, 73; Prof Michael Dummett, logician, 71; Shirley Ann Field, actress, 58; Sarah Jane Hoare, fashion editor, 41; Lord Hope, Lord Justice General of Scotland, 54; Bruce Johnston, singer, 53; Ian Lang MP, president of the Board of Trade, 56; Muriel Pavlow, actress, 74; Dr Thurstan Shaw, archaeologist of Nigeria, 62; Alan Tyrrell QC, crown court recorder, 63; William Wilson, chief constable, Central Scotland, 53; Hugh Wood, composer, 64.

Death Notices

MATTHEW Thomas Kirk of Rothbarrow and 6 Bromley Avenue, Liverpool, beloved son of Ted and Jane, brother of William and John, died June 24th aged 21 years. Informal service to celebrate his life to be held at St. Peter's Church, Bromley, on Monday 1st July at 10pm. Family flowers by arrangement. In lieu if desired to Merseyside District Council, 100 Victoria Road, Liverpool L15 3RS. All donations and enquiries to: Burial Home and Sons, 6 Bromley Valley Road, Rothbarrow, Liverpool L15 3RS.

Birthdays

LOWE, Edwin Charles MA of Wigton, formerly Senior History Master and Deputy Headmaster at St. Mary's, Wigton, 90 years young today. Happy Birthdays, love and care.

Engagements

Dr Andrew Nicholls - Miss Mary Green. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Dr A. Nicholls of Wigton, and Miss Mary Green, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Nicholls of Wigton. The wedding will take place on 1st July at 10pm. All enquiries to: Burial Home and Sons, 6 Bromley Valley Road, Rothbarrow, Liverpool L15 3RS.

Jackdaw



swimming upstream toward the site of a recent toxic waste spillage. The salmon were taken in specially constructed water-filled boxes, several miles upstream and released to continue their journey. Pussel hassle castle vassal (Zealous prince in a crowd harangue Frince Charles' valot) Met, net bet jet, get wet pet, get wet pet. (Two New York athletes make a friendly wager against fellow Big Apple pro, win a soaked animal, and give it to an animal doctor to worry about) Veggie wedgie! Reggie edgy (Outfielder Jackson apprehensive over rumour that teammate plans to sneak up and stuff broccoli into his shorts) Virgin purgin surgin (Moves to suppress volcano gods seen on rise) Lewd crude dude viewed prude; nude sued (Peeping Tom sued by nude victim) Mite fright: "Lite" white bite might snit (Yet another health hazard was announced by scientists who discovered a potentially lethal microscopic organism in

skimmed milk) Wide bride cried "Clyde lied" (Overweight woman left standing at the altar) Droop scene drape (Woman buys counterfeit Wonderbra) Simpson's pimps on gimps on lumps on (Referring to OJ's defence team contention that his knees would not have permitted him to climb the fence) Tex mex wrecks sex (New medical study) Winners and runners up in a competition in which readers were asked to create newspaper headlines in which all the words rhymed in *Atlantic* magazine, online at www.theatlantic.com/

Drug line HE FINALLY received the message he was waiting for from his New York source and quickly relayed it to a buyer he had lined up in Boston. "I'm selling this guy about three pounds of marijuana," he explains. "It's a major cash crop for me. There's no point in selling it in little

quantities, it's the big amounts that generate cash. "Mainly I deal in heroin and cocaine. The dealers finally wised up," he says, scrolling through a message that arrived while he was talking. "They started to package heroin in much smaller bags, and the stuff here in Boston, it's really really pure, you can snort all you want. So all those people who hate needles, and saw heroin as some kind of junkie drug, can do it and feel good about themselves."

"Basically nobody thinks this is going on, which is fine by me," says Terry. "But while they are just now starting to realise that the Internet isn't only good for recipes and movie reviews, I'm expanding. "I buy every one of my top dealers a cheap system, for around 500 bucks, and set them up on the Net. After I finish building the network, I'm going to expand in DC and Baltimore. With the system set up the way it is, there isn't a trace of hard copy evidence. I never have to worry about phone taps, and I save enor-

mous cash on long distance calls, since dropping an e-mail letter to someone in Tokyo costs the same as dropping it to someone in the next apartment."

Twelve hours have passed. During this time Terry has earned approximately \$5000. Not bad for a 23-year-old college drop-out. *Woodward interviews one of a new breed of Internet entrepreneurs.*

Captain Good presents "Sleaze Alerts", tips on how to beat the criminals, shows colour pictures of those charged with crimes and tells viewers who they are. That's all before the insults begin — epithets that could never pass the lips of Superman, but come easily to the former US marine who was decorated for valour in Vietnam. Creatures of dog, dirt bags, dinks, faceless cowards, gutter creeps, hair balls, lowlife punks, maggots, scum, sleaze

Crime avenger CAPTAIN GOOD with his Goodmovie, tours the streets of Taunton, Massachusetts, to educate the young and three times a week on cable TV, makes the underworld tremble. For Captain Good, aka Richard P. Pimental, long serving member of the police force and granddaddy, it's a non-stop battle against the pimps, hookers, johns and drug pushers of the town. As long as the criminals don't quit, he won't, says the officer who's been described as having "a stomach, heart and ego as big as the great outdoors". On his crimewatch TV shows,

He was one of those rare people against whom it was always worth testing a difficult idea



Downlow... criminal records

last year. Dept of Religion: Grade is determined by God. Dept of Philosophy: What is a grade? Law School: Students are asked to defend their position of why they should receive an A. Dept of Mathematics: Grades are variable. Dept of Logic: If and only if the student is present for the final and the student has accumulated a passing grade then the student will receive an A. Dept of Computer Science: Random number generator determines grade. Department of Physical Education: Everybody gets an A. How your exam papers were marked this summer at www.umd.umich.edu

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.com; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

CPM 150

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Costain halts share trading

Tony May

THE creditworthiness of Costain — builder of the Newbury bypass — was in question yesterday as the troubled construction group asked for its shares to be suspended after they slumped 44.3 per cent in a few hours' trading.

Once one of the UK's biggest construction and building companies, Costain has been struggling to eliminate debts first incurred in building the Channel Tunnel. It has been attempting to sell its US coal-mining operations — variously estimated at £50 million or £80 million — in what is seen in the City as a last-ditch attempt to save the firm and jobs of 11,000 employees around the globe.

Earlier this month Costain, which owes its banks £75 million, won the £74 million contract to build the Newbury Bypass, but that will not pay off for years and the troubles yesterday led environmental campaigners to call for the project to be halted.

Amidst hectic trading on the stock market yesterday morning more than £16 million was wiped off the group's market value, leaving it worth just £20.2 million or a tenth of its £206 million valuation early in 1994. The group asked for trading to be suspended as the shares fell 44.3 per cent.

The group issued a brief statement to the stock exchange saying that it would miss its previous target of announcing its 1995 results towards the end of June.

It said: "This timetable for the issue of its results will not now be met. Costain expects to be able to make an announcement concerning these results and other significant corporate developments

shortly." The company has delayed releasing its results in the hope that it could announce them along with the sale of its US coal-mining division.

A company spokesman said the sale of the coal unit was at an "advanced stage of discussion". He said it would also announce other "significant developments of a positive nature" — possibly next week. He would not say if these included management changes.

It is understood that an overseas company is ready to underpin the group and that this might lead to management changes at a later stage.

As the group's shares were suspended, IBCA, the European credit-rating agency, said it had placed the ratings of Costain Group "on Rating Watch" with "negative implications".

IBCA said Costain's debt was rated at CCC long-term and C short-term. IBCA added: "Costain has announced that it cannot produce its results for the year ended December 31, 1995 or publish its report and accounts by the end of this month — a Stock Exchange listing requirement."

Following two profit warnings since the start of 1996, the equity base of the group is clearly under pressure and relies heavily on the support afforded by the accounting treatment of its special dividend.

Amidst the crisis, Friends of the Earth called on Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, to halt construction of the Newbury bypass. Following the suspension of Costain's shares, FOS urged Sir George not to pay Costain the £18 million of public money promised to it, as Costain might not be able to fulfil its contractual obligations.



Newbury bypass protest... now the builder, Costain, is in trouble after the construction group asked for its shares to be suspended because of debts. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARQUES

BT dials trouble in fight against cable

Michelle Barnister
Technology Editor

BRITISH Telecom's campaign to win back subscribers who switched to cable companies has backfired, with complaints that it used ex-directory numbers to contact former customers.

Don Cruickshank, the director general of Ofcom, has demanded a full report from BT on both its use of ex-directory numbers and allegations that it used misleading information.

Former BT customers and the Cable Communications Association had complained about BT's campaign, which has run for about four weeks.

A BT spokesman said: "Obviously we take things like this very seriously and a thorough review of what happened is taking place. But so far the indications are that we have done nothing wrong. We have been ringing people who have switched to cable, as part of a marketing campaign over the past few weeks. Unfortunately it appears that some of these people have been ex-directory."

He pointed out that it was not illegal to ring someone who was ex-directory, and that these numbers were within the range of lists by other organisations.

He said the group could never be sure that staff had not been over-zealous in selling its services. But it would be contrary to their training and it would be a disciplinary matter if they were found to be doing so.

Later he was trained to work from a very carefully prepared script," he said.

The cable companies have been making significant inroads into BT's residential customer base. The company estimates that it is losing about 50,000 customers a week to them.

Earlier this year it revealed that its number of residential customers had fallen for the first time.

Notebook

On the nuclear Titanic's deck



Edited by
Alex Brummer

TECHNICAL uncertainty over whether always going to make the price of British Energy shares difficult. Nevertheless, a valuation range on a privatisation issue spanning £1.26 billion to £1.96 billion is as unprecedented as it is ridiculous.

Trade Secretary Ian Lang's insistence that this was an appropriate way to price the company that will own the country's eight most modern nuclear reactors does not wash. The history of this sell-off tells us that the Government would have been better advised to postpone or cancel this last big privatisation before the election.

When the sale was launched in May 1996, the Government said that a £2.6 billion shortfall in funds for the decommissioning of old Magnox stations (not for sale) would be met by British Energy (BE) proceeds. In other words, the sale would raise at least £2.6 billion.

When government adviser Barclays De Zoete Wedd (BZW) came to value the company, it found itself painted into a corner. It duly came up with a valuation range of £1.4 billion to £2.5 billion.

To do so it had to make highly optimistic assumptions that electricity pool prices — widely regarded as on their way down — would stay level, and that the eight reactors could achieve substantial increases in output.

Later BZW cut its valuation when it became clear the City would not buy the story. It went for a more conservative £1.7 billion, and added a few caveats to that.

In the interim, there has been an unbroken series of questions raised about the performance of the reactors, culminating in yesterday's disclosure on these pages that nuclear inspectors are investigating faults in the fuel pins of six of the stations.

The prospectus has been altered to admit that this problem has been identified in two stations, not just one, as the pathfinder prospectus said two weeks ago.

What the full sale document does not say is that the problem could at best cap further increases in output, and at worst actually force BE to cut output. This would have an impact on the company's revenues and profits — and therefore on its valuation.

As investors have juggled with the vexed question of whether this is a bargain or a trap, the value of BE has shrunk and shrunk. Not because of "market conditions", as Mr Lang put it, borrowing the language used when the Gulf war overhung the stock market during the 1990 sale of National Power and PowerGen, but because of the reactor problems.

Mr Mutati denied market rumours that the Zambian agency might be sitting on a "long" market position of 100,000 tonnes of copper and have suffered extended losses as a result — rumours which have helped to undermine the price of copper since the Summito affair broke two weeks ago.

Regulatory sources say that as part of the investigation they will examine relations between brokers who had contacts with the Hamanaka group, including GMM in the US and Winchester Commodities in Britain — and clients other than Summito.

They are thought to be interested in the activity of two British-registered firms — Memaco Services and Memaco Trading — which were consolidated into ZCCM at the beginning of this year.

Mr Mutati explained that the Memaco companies were set up in the early 1980s to help cover shortfalls in production, meeting delivery schedules for customers and the likes. He denied these firms were involved in any sort of market speculation, although they did do "a little bit of controlled business".

Once one of the world's top five copper producers, Zambia's output has suffered due to political and industrial upheaval of late. But the annual production of 350,000 tonnes still accounts for 80 per cent of the country's exchange earnings.

Recently privatisation has been mooted for ZCCM, which is 25 per cent controlled by Anglo American.

Gen — but because the City now more clearly understands the huge technical and safety question marks over this sale.

The prospectus establishes that the Government would be prepared to sell BE for as little as £1.26 billion, even though this is nearly a third of the capital cost of its prize asset, Sizewell B.

There will be no shortage of questions for the National Audit Office when it investigates whether this privatisation represented good value for taxpayers.

As for small investors, they are being asked to sign a blank check, albeit one sweetened with the promise of a gross dividend of 6.2 to 9.8 per cent. This unacceptable issue should be given the widest berth.

Board lessons

CORPORATE governance has gone international with the first annual meeting in London of the International Corporate Governance Network. The aim of the network, representing individual or institutional shareholders, is to spread good practice.

Amidst congratulatory at the conference there will inevitably be a danger that UK organisations will see themselves as missionaries, taking the message to less enlightened countries, beginning with the rest of Europe, and that the venture will be seen as a defensive measure aimed at fending off some kind of European Union directive.

Both outcomes would be unfortunate. A directive is probably unnecessary and would certainly be untimely. But while Britain has a well-developed structure of corporate governance, the practice lags behind the principle.

That has been made clear by events this week at Wickes, where investors have sat back and watched profits grow only to start complaining about boardroom practices when things go wrong.

The International network might help to change that attitude, if it leads to more intervention — like that of leading US fund Calpers — being imported to Britain.

Newbury nasty

NO sooner had Wickes given the stock market a scare than Costain, contractors on the Newbury bypass, found itself at the end of share-price collapse which saw the company's value plunge by 44 per cent in a matter of minutes.

Costain's financial difficulties have been known for some time, and have not been helped by the Channel Tunnel.

While shareholders keep their fingers crossed, Costain is working on a sale of its US coal assets and a management shakeup, which it hopes will keep it in the receivers. What a pity, though, that pressure for change was not exerted earlier and more firmly — without putting 11,000 jobs at risk worldwide.

£1m-a-year Wickes chief quits

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

HENRY Sweetbaum, the £1 million-a-year head of DIY chain Wickes, yesterday bowed to City pressure and resigned as the company pushed through a boardroom shake-up and called in lawyers and accountants to investigate serious accounting problems.

Mr Sweetbaum tendered his resignation at a crisis board meeting called after trading in the company's shares was suspended on Tuesday and which continued late into yesterday evening. It followed an admission that

accounting difficulties could have led to profits for 1996 being overstated.

The suspension of the stock came after a 40p slide in shares and provoked outrage among big City investors — much of it directed at Mr Sweetbaum.

He had courted controversy previously by continuing to hold the dual role of chairman and chief executive and because of his pay which totalled £1.2 million last year. His pay settlement included a 2750,000 long-term bonus awarded even though the group lost £258 million.

Two non-executives have been drafted in to steer the company out of the crisis.

Michael von Brentano takes the role of non-executive chairman, while Robert Burrow becomes deputy chairman. Michael Corner takes the role of director of operations working temporarily alongside finance director Stuart Stradling with both men reporting to Mr von Brentano.

The new-look board also agreed last night to call in lawyers Linklaters & Paines and accountants Price Waterhouse to investigate the financial problems, which are thought to relate to the treatment of cash discounts given to DIY stores by suppliers in return for big orders.

There have been suggestions that Wickes may have included some of the sums, known in the sector as over-discounts, in annual profits before sufficient stock had been sold to justify the discounts.

The inquiry will not only focus on the 1995 accounts but also on previous years too, after an admission from the company that they could also have been overstated.

Mr Stradling, brought in from SBC Warburg a year ago to be finance director, is expected to continue in the role until the inquiry is complete.

It was unclear last night if the company was seeking a settlement from the company for agreeing to step down early.

Mr Stradling, brought in from SBC Warburg a year ago to be finance director, is expected to continue in the role until the inquiry is complete.

It was unclear last night if the company was seeking a settlement from the company for agreeing to step down early.

Zambian agency faces inquiry

Copper crisis

Paul Murphy and
Patrick Donovan

CITY regulators spearheading the international inquiry into apparent attempts to rig the world copper market have extended their investigation to include the London trading operation of Zambia, one of the world's biggest suppliers of the metal.

Zambian Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM), a state-owned agency, is understood to have been drawn into the Summito scandal by virtue of its links with Global Minerals & Metals (GMM), the US metals broker which transacted substantial business with Yasuo Hamanaka — the Japanese "rogue trader" whose unauthorised trading over 10 years has cost Summito more than £1.2 billion.

Webby Wake, head of ZCCM's London operation, was abroad on business yesterday. But the group's general manager for sales, Urbano Mutati, who has flown in from Lusaka to London, said he had no knowledge of the investigation. He con-

firmed, however, that his firm had done business with GMM in the US.

"As far as we are concerned (GMM) are just customers. They purchased physical copper from us. They didn't take our positions," he said.

"Obviously client contracts are confidential, but any authority can come and talk to us. We have nothing to hide or fear," he added.

Mr Mutati denied market rumours that the Zambian agency might be sitting on a "long" market position of 100,000 tonnes of copper and have suffered extended losses as a result — rumours which have helped to undermine the price of copper since the Summito affair broke two weeks ago.

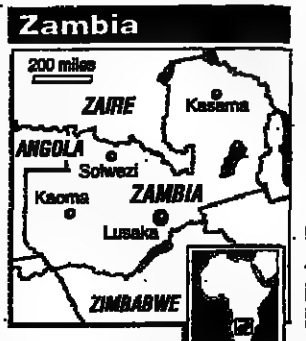
Regulatory sources say that as part of the investigation they will examine relations between brokers who had contacts with the Hamanaka group, including GMM in the US and Winchester Commodities in Britain — and clients other than Summito.

They are thought to be interested in the activity of two British-registered firms — Memaco Services and Memaco Trading — which were consolidated into ZCCM at the beginning of this year.

Mr Mutati explained that the Memaco companies were set up in the early 1980s to help cover shortfalls in production, meeting delivery schedules for customers and the likes. He denied these firms were involved in any sort of market speculation, although they did do "a little bit of controlled business".

Once one of the world's top five copper producers, Zambia's output has suffered due to political and industrial upheaval of late. But the annual production of 350,000 tonnes still accounts for 80 per cent of the country's exchange earnings.

Recently privatisation has been mooted for ZCCM, which is 25 per cent controlled by Anglo American.



Vital resource
GMP: \$51,707,500 (1995)
Copper: 79% of GMP
90% of exports

Eastern Group ex-director on charge of insider dealing

Nicholas Barnister
and Simon Beavis

THE Eastern Group's former strategy director, Douglas Swinden, has been charged with insider dealing following his alleged purchase of shares in another regional electricity group.

He has been charged with buying 2,000 shares in Seeboard when he had price-sensitive information about the electricity company in a letter to Eastern's chairman.

In April, Dr Swinden was committed for trial at the Old Bailey. The case has now been transferred to Middlesex Crown Court.

The legal action against Dr Swinden follows a Department of Trade and Industry investigation into dealings in Seeboard shares between June and August 1994.

Biotech set for Footsie as it seeks cash to fund drugs development

Tony May

BRITISH Biotech, Europe's leading biotechnology firm, may soon be a candidate for the FTSE-100 index, even though it would still be a loss-making company with no revenues.

Through a rights issue the Oxford-based group is asking its shareholders for £143.4 million to fund drug development, and is also planning a nine-for-one capitalisation issue.

John Savin, an analyst with Greig Middleton, said that following the rights and capitalisation issues, and taking into account the potential of the company's key developmental drugs, the group will be valued at £2 billion, ranking among the UK's top 100 companies.

After the changes he saw the group's fair value at 447p per share.

The issue, to be made on the basis of one new share at £20.50 for every eight held, was widely expected and its shares traded down 5p at £23.75.

The City has piled cash

into the company in the expectation that it will become an international pharmaceutical business

an idea abandoned by most British firms, who are instead seeking partners for drug development.

But Biotech wants to bring its products to the market by itself. It will use new cash to finance the development of two products, the anti-cancer drug Marimastat and acute pancreatitis product Lexipant.

One recent research note from ABN-AMRO Hoare Govett predicted that peak sales of Marimastat could reach nearly £4.6 billion by the year 2012.

In essence, British Biotech is seeking to emulate the US firm, Amgen. It now has billions of dollars of sales on the back of its Neupogen and Epogen drugs.

But Biotech still has a long way to go. In a separate announcement, it said losses in the year to April 30 narrowed from £26.3 million to £25.2 million. It intends to build new laboratories and enough offices to consolidate all its operations in one site.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.6825	France 7.72	Italy 2.318	Singapore 2.12
Canada 1.628	Germany 2.2850	Malta 0.6490	South Africa 1.50
Belgium 46.96	Greece 364.50	Netherlands 2.5550	Spain 192.00
Denmark 8.8450	Hong Kong 11.02	New Zealand 2.20	Sweden 10.05
Cyprus 0.7015	India 63.77	Norway 9.8190	Switzerland 1.8290
Denmark 8.8450	Ireland 0.9450	Portugal 236.50	Turkey 120.9870
Finland 7.0950	Israel 4.98	Saudi Arabia 5.74	USA 1.5050

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

G7 SUMMIT in LYON

American sanctions split western leaders

IAN BLACK reveals what's behind the diplomatic row that threatens to disrupt the running order

BEHIND the scenes over United States sanctions against allies trading with Cuba, Iran and Libya is threatening to break out into open warfare at today's world economic summit in Lyon.

extension of the principle of "extra-territoriality". Britain, the US's largest trading partner in the EU, is also worried about the growing tendency for issues of international trade and foreign policy to be driven by a domestic political agenda.

'We would like to move on to other issues. We don't want this to hijack the summit'

US diplomat

ness with Iran and Libya by prohibiting their operations in the domestic market and excluding them from government contracts.

Mr Clinton is said to be aware of the strong feelings raised by the issue, as the question of extra-territorial trade law has been raised repeatedly in recent months by individual countries and the European Union.

"We would like to move on to other issues," said one US diplomat. "We don't want this to hijack the summit."

European concern is more about the Middle East than Cuba, but less about the sums of money involved than the

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher will arrive in Lyon on Tuesday.

Carl Bildt, the international community's civilian mediator, will join the summit discussion of Bosnia, which is expected to reaffirm the need to stick to the timetable set in the Dayton peace agreement and express determination to bring wanted war criminals to trial.

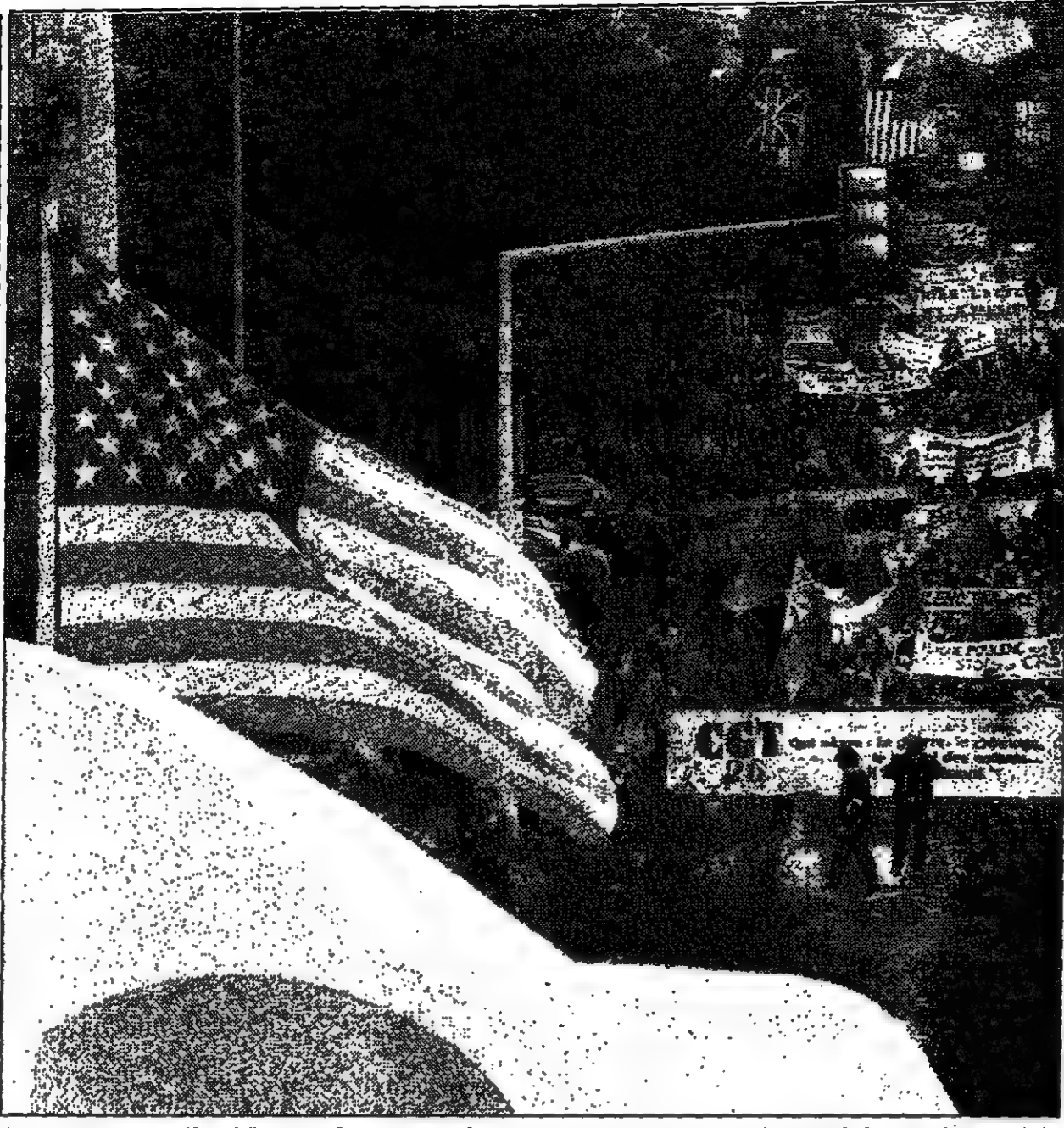
Little discussion is likely about extending the mission of the Nato-led peace implementation force, due to begin withdrawing in December.

Mr Clinton promised Congress it would be over within a year, and France fears that staying on without the Americans would mean a return to the intellectual peacekeeping and transatlantic rows that characterised the previous UN force.

In the absence of election-bound President Boris Yeltsin, replaced by prime minister Victor Chernomyrdin, the G7 leaders will also express hopes for continued economic reform in Russia.

And tomorrow's deadline for completing the drafting of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, now highly unlikely to be met, will add the issue of stopping the spread of nuclear weapons to the G7's already crowded agenda.

Leaders are also certain to discuss US opposition to extending UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's term past December.



Power struggle... US and Japanese flags wave as thousands protest against unemployment before the G7 summit in Lyon, France. Despite the social problems, the summit mood appears to be one of complacency. PHOTOGRAPH MICHEL GUILLET

IMF chief wants bigger union role

Michel Camdessus argues for a new spirit of co-operation to fight poverty, reports JULIE WOLF in Brussels

MICHEL Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, yesterday used his first appearance before a trade union audience to argue that unions can play a key role in ensuring that globalisation does not lead to unemployment and deprivation.

view of many trade unionists that increased international trade and capital flows were undermining living conditions and incomes in the developed and developing world.

governments, employers and unions should work together to achieve these goals, said Mr Camdessus, a former governor of the French Central Bank.

IMF's role in promoting structural adjustment in developing countries. "Please don't accept the political propaganda of politicians" who blame the IMF and World Bank for their own failings, Mr Camdessus said.

Deutsche signals seismic shift

IAN TRAYNOR in Bonn DEUTSCHE Bank, the country's biggest commercial bank and corporate giant, is planning to shed or trim some of its key industrial holdings in a move signalling a seismic shift in Germany's business culture.

sharply on the disclosure, which comes amid fevered debates in Germany over the relative merits of German-style corporatism against the Anglo-Saxon model of market-driven capitalism, and strongly suggests that top German industrialists are increasingly keen to go at least partly down the latter road.

the brink of bankruptcy after allegations of hundreds of millions of marks being lost through fraudulent accounting.

Underside

Dan Atkinson SIR Terence Burns, the Treasury's top mandarin, is an anxious man. Not, as one may have imagined, because a few billion has gone AWOL from the FSB, but because his beloved Treasury Internet service has been short-listed as "Best Non-Commercial Site" of the year.

fence to any of our passengers." WE take off our paper Eng-En-Land hats to the US delegation from Euro 96 sponsor Mastercard, whose members endured the distinctly un-American experience of attending the game against Spain at Wembley on Saturday.

was busy watering down Labour's proposals on workers' rights. Cherie appeared at a book launch as author of the foreword. Billed as a "leading employment barrister," she lent her imprimatur to the tome, entitled Negotiating Employment Agreements, which aims to "show anyone with a responsibility for personnel how to avoid falling foul of employment law" and to provide "an easy-to-use guide which will enable businesses of all shapes and sizes to avoid making costly mistakes".

making costly mistakes". As author Peter Cooke says: "Short-term contracts, part-time workers, greater employees' rights (sic) and the combination of UK and European legislation have all combined to create an area of business which is fraught with risks for the unaware." Quite.

MONARCH Airlines can abandon hope of picking up the Nobel Peace Prize after an erratum issued in relation to its European Routes Map. "We have included Egypt twice... while completely omitting Israel altogether. This is a genuine error and we regret having caused of-

CHERIE Blair QC, the UK's answer to Hillary Rodham, is popping up everywhere these days. But what sort of messages is she conveying through her choice of endorsements? Only last week, when her husband



Bombers set the agenda once again

Terrorism and unemployment still provide the background as latest talks open, say LARRY ELLIOTT and IAN TRAYNOR in Bonn

THE leaders of the West's seven most powerful nations could be forgiven for thinking that the world has come full circle when they gather in Lyon for their annual get-together this evening.

— that job creation depended on cutting costs and lowering taxes — would have been music to the ears of UK ministers. UK officials skated smoothly over the macro-economy in their summit briefings this week, asserting that there was a common belief in the British approach — low inflation, cutting budget deficits and tackling unemployment through a "more flexible" labour market.

The deaths of US servicemen in Saudi Arabia ensure that terrorism is high on the agenda over the next three days, with President Clinton certain to press for global action against bombers.

But America is not the power it was, as could have been predicted way back in 1975, when Saigon was evacuated and the United States was still traumatised by military defeat and presidential malfeasance.

As a result, when it comes to the economy, the G7 discussion is likely to be minimal and even perfunctory. That is despite the fact that the West is blighted by the highest unemployment since the 1930s and some countries are showing signs of severe dislocation.

There will be discussions on IMF gold sales, curbs on arms sales and the need to clamp down on drug barons, but on the global economy the talk will be of Japanese recovery and the bright future that beckons for continental Europe once public spending has been squeezed.

In Germany, for many years a beacon of social solidarity and high-living standards, the country is riven by the public spending cuts demanded by Chancellor Kohl to ensure that Europe's largest economy meets the Maastricht convergence criteria for a single currency.

In fact, the World Economic Summit has become a misnomer. The idea back in 1975, fostered by Keynesian demand management, was that world leaders could and should act to mitigate the impact of the first Opec oil shock.

German industrialists threw their weight yesterday behind Chancellor Kohl's plans for 130 billion of public spending cuts.

On the eve of a parliamentary vote on cutting social benefits, Klaus Murrmann, head of the German employers' federation, ridiculed trades union opposition to the cuts. "The reduction of the welfare state to what can be financed is long overdue," Mr Murrmann said.

News in brief

Harvey Nichols in strong performance

HARVEY Nichols, the recently-floated Knightsbridge fashion store, unveiled a sparkling set of results for the year to the end of March. Pre-tax profits were up by 53 per cent to £9.15 million, boosted by increased sales at maintained profit margins, control over costs and higher interest earned on cash.

Telegraph shares go-ahead

HOLLINGER International, the newspaper group run by the Canadian media tycoon Conrad Black, yesterday got the go-ahead to proceed with its proposed buy-out of the minority shareholders in the Telegraph group. Jeremy Deedes, the group's managing director, did not expect it to have any effect on the daily operation of the paper because Hollinger already owned 64 per cent of its shares.

Goodwill may depreciate

COMPANY balance sheets will be transformed if proposals published today, aimed at ending a long-running accounting wrangle, are accepted by the profession. The plan, published by the Accounting Standards Board (ASB), would add intangible assets acquired in a takeover to the buyer's balance sheet, and would require the sum, known as goodwill, to be depreciated like a normal asset over 30 years.

Abbey joins medical market

MORTGAGE lenders are about to swoop on the medical insurance market following a deal announced yesterday between the Abbey National and Norwich Union Healthcare. Abbey and Norwich Union — which controls a fifth of the medical insurance market — are to form a joint venture selling medical insurance policies through Abbey's branches. The Halifax also plans to enter the market and is believed to have held informal discussions with Bupa. — Teresa Hunter

100% Local Call Access AOL is the first online service to give you 100% local call access from anywhere in the UK! Call now and we'll also give you FREE software! FREE membership for a month! FREE 10 hours online! FREE technical support! Internet * Email * News * Sport * Entertainment * Games * Travel * Computing * Digital City * Chat * Kids * Finance * And More! All at 28.5k access nationwide! CALL 0800 274 1234 for your FREE trial pack today!

WIMBLEDON

M

Beck

T

Rugby Union Twickenham under fire

H

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

WIMBLEDON: DAY THREE

Seles falls in baseline slugfest

MONICA SELES, the No. 1 seed and world's joint leading player, was knocked out by the 59th-ranked Katarina Studenikova on No. 1 Court yesterday.

really close it down when I led 2-0 in the third, but I still felt pretty confident when I went to the locker room for rain leading 3-2. But in the end I just didn't go for my shots and I had trouble with the slice on her backhand.



Over and out... Seles looks aggressive enough but the joint world No. 1 was outgunned by Studenikova, ranked 59

Milligan prevails in extra time

Frank Keating on a young Briton whose fortunes resembled a penalty shoot-out

THE male of the British species continued its colourfully bright and emotionally jangling renaissance when Luke Milligan, a 19-year-old with stout heart and no little skill, won his second five-set match in successive days to eliminate the seriously rated youngster from Ecuador, Nic Lapentti.

The British will have to enjoy their suddenly gaudy and acclaimed life while it lasts — which, as a collective, may not be long, because the quirk of the draw has likened them to that species of spider that happily gives birth only to turn round and eat its mate.

That contest was ended by bad light soon after half-time in the Wembley soccer, with Henman leading by 6-1 and 5-5 and only a faithful smattering of tennis diehards remaining defiantly around the No. 1 Court bleachers.

Even when taking the first set seemingly with ease, Henman was hitting the ball with nothing like the crisp certainties of his high of the day before; the more so in the second set when Sapsford boldly decided to begin swiping for broke.

Milligan's unlikely victory was a stirring one, but nevertheless it was not dramatic. It was the snuff of a penalty shoot-out. Will he want to be in this? No it isn't. The backhand volley exultantly tucked away at the net after 3hr 46min on court was the first match point in eight the Hertfordshire teenager had not blown.

That was all of 1hr 50min after he had failed to grab the nettle at his first match point, and all of 6hr 37min since he had begun his Tuesday match in his first Wimbledon appearance as a wild-card home entry.

Cramp struck him towards the end of the fourth set, as it was to pull up his opponent in the fifth, more than any tablets, one sensed that the players' sustenance for the final curtain now came from the wildly applauding Wimbledon matrons, who warm fast to a quicksilver spritz with a racy fuzz of designer stubble.

There was also some raucous cheerleading from Milligan's parents, sisters, brothers, cousins and aunts. "We are all totally into this," said his father Jim. "It shows he was right to insist on leaving school to join a full-time tennis squad in Brighton, and it certainly calls for a skintful of drinks tonight, football or no football."

On yesterday's evidence Milligan is certainly a likely prospect. He is no heavyweight serve-and-volleyer, more an athlete at home on the back court, a baseliner with topspin and an appreciation of the narrow angles and distant corners that earn points. What he has yet to learn is how to finish a tie-break; he messed up both of them yesterday, but not the match.

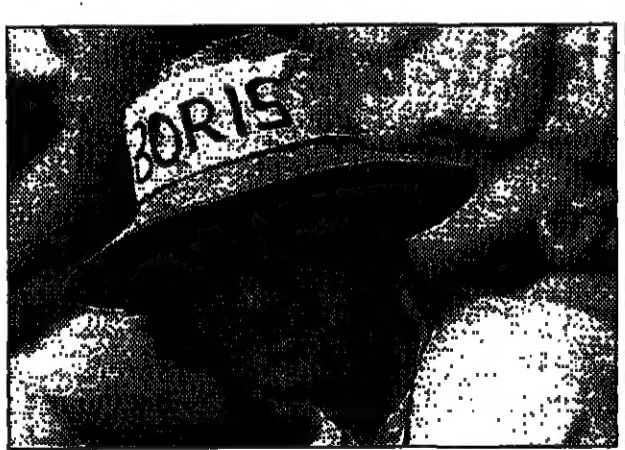
Becker booms back to crush Spanish uprising

THERE is clearly someone with a sense of humour on Wimbledon's order-of-play committee. Otherwise it was just too much of a coincidence that the first Centre Court yesterday involved German players.

though he had the carpet taken from under his feet by Washington in Essen this year. The Swede had never progressed beyond the first round here in two attempts, and maintained that record in losing 6-4, 7-6, 6-3.

Stephen Bierley sees a trio of Germans serve notice of their intent

the No. 5 seed. Huber's 6-2, 6-1 win was cringingly one-sided; Shriver still possesses all the old mannerisms, talking and gesticulating to herself from start to finish, but time has caught up with her game.



rooster in his favourite tennis backyard. Even after the first two days of shocks, with Agassi, Kafelnikov, Chang and Courier all falling by the wayside, there were few who supposed the German would find himself in any sort of trouble against Tomas Carbonell.

with a service game to love, a pleasing thud emanating from his racket. Carbonell's strings, by comparison, swished. This would surely not last long. But these are peculiar times.

A slight tremor rippled through Centre Court; a definite shake was experienced when once again Becker dropped his serve at the beginning of the second set. Carbonell passed the German with three wonderful returns and, when he missed with a fourth, Becker aimed a darkly meaningful look across the net. He then double-faulted. Carbonell held his serve, and Becker trailed 6-4, 3-6.

that it was simply impossible to imagine it would not sharply improve. And so it did. Becker's serve, the axis of his game, finally slipped into its usual well-oiled groove, and the force was with him.

The Spandard's serve now began to fragment under pressure and Becker levelled. The third set and Becker lost his serve again but, by now Carbonell was losing his at will and Becker ran out a comfortable enough winner 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Sandwiched between the victories for Huber and Becker was the match left over from the previous evening between Germany's Michael Stich, the No. 10 seed, and Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands. Stich had led 6-3, 3-6, 4-1 on Tuesday night and was clearly in a mood to finish it off quickly. He reeled off six games without reply, winning the last two sets 6-1, 6-2.

Rugby Union

Twickenham under fire

HUGH LAMBERT, the president of the Yorkshire Rugby Football Union, has strongly criticised the RFU for the way it has handled the game's transition to the open air.

Cricket

Hurt Nash leaves Middlesex

DION NASH, the New Zealand fast bowler, has been released by Middlesex. The 24-year-old from Auckland has not played this season because of a long-standing back injury and is returning home on medical advice for an extended period of rest.

Results

Men's Singles

Holder: P Sampras (US)
First round
(Seeds in capitals)
S. Agassi (Ser) (6) vs S. Schalken (Ned) 6-3, 6-1, 6-2

Women's Doubles

Holder: J Novotna / A Sanchez Vicario (Cz/Sp)
First round
A. Panatta / A. Panatta (ITA) vs C. C. PARANDELLI / E. VERONIS (USA) 6-3, 6-2

Men's Doubles

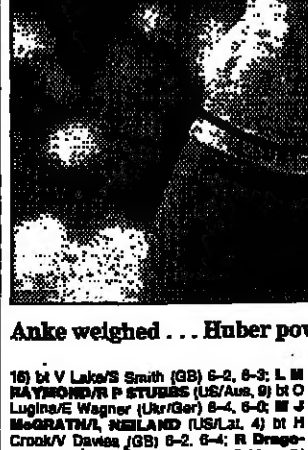
Women's Singles

Holder: S Graf (Ger)
Second round
D. Panatta (ITA) vs G. Pizzicoli (ITA) 6-2, 6-4

Men's Doubles

Women's Doubles

Holder: S Graf (Ger)
Second round
D. Panatta (ITA) vs G. Pizzicoli (ITA) 6-2, 6-4



Anke weighed... Huber powers her way past Shriver

Men's Doubles

Women's Singles

Holder: S Graf (Ger)
Second round
D. Panatta (ITA) vs G. Pizzicoli (ITA) 6-2, 6-4

Holder: S Graf (Ger)
Second round
D. Panatta (ITA) vs G. Pizzicoli (ITA) 6-2, 6-4

EURO 96: THE SEMI-FINALS

Czech Rep 0, France 0 (aet; Cz 6-5 on pens)

Underdog Czechs break out in spots

Ian Hoos at Old Trafford

AS EVER, winning remains all in football, no more so than in major tournaments, where there are no grey areas.

The scenes of uncontained joy that followed what was a rather hollow triumph in a penalty shoot-out may perhaps go some way to disguising what had preceded an inevitably tense climax.

It was as poor as that: an afternoon of countless errors, and the competition's third fixture to stumble through an extra period without yielding a "golden goal".

In 1976 the Czechs won the title they will now contest at Wembley on Sunday by defeating the then World Cup holders West Germany on penalties. Yesterday their greater accuracy from 12 yards was to be decisive.

After both teams had converted their allotted five kicks the France substitute Reynald Pedros drove tamely into the legs of Petr Kouba.

The Czech centre-back Miroslav Kadlec was promptly ushered forth from a group standing in the centre circle to strike his side's sixth, and final, kick. It flew in and, to the delight of romanticists the world over, a team seemingly invited along to the great party to make up the numbers were home and dry.

The game was never pretty and always hugely disappointing. Both sides resembled untidy collections of spare parts for injury and suspension had conspired to rob the occasion of many gifted contributors.

Four punished Czech-mates huddled together on a touch-line that also played home, unexpectedly, to France's Didier Deschamps, who had succumbed to a calf injury earlier in the day.

The Czechs again played with a robust freedom but, in the French, they met a level of preparedness they had hitherto not encountered. Even without Deschamps, France soaked up the Czechs' more fluid assaults like a dry sponge. Unfortunately for those neutrals in a paltry crowd the Czechs had been similarly diligent and a reshaped defence coped admirably and without discomfort during what was a torturous opening hour.

A quite wretched spectacle had crawled on its belly to the 54th minute before a shot was on target.

The Czech forward Drulak's rather lazy and unconvincing drive flew straight into the midriff of the French goalkeeper Lama, but the malcontents in the expensive seats were grateful for small mercies.

The sarcastic applause rolled down the barren stands like morning mist, and at last the message held therein seemed to prick the consciences of some of those wearing boots.

In relative terms what followed was a positive feast of open and attacking football.

For 10 glorious minutes the Czech defence resembled a rabbit transfixed by the headlights of an oncoming car. They stood and watched bemused as France had the audacity to try to win the tie without recourse to extra-time.

Djorkaeff was twice unfortunate, clipping the top of the crossbar with a rising drive and then sweeping a volley fractionally too high.

Fatigue, and fatigue alone, was to ensure that the trial of extra time came to represent something of a lighter load.

There was much huffing and puffing, a couple of half-chances and the Czechs' first corner of the match, but little else. Somehow the afternoon had always seemed destined to be decided by a lottery.

For France, the disappointment was that the tournament's great underdog was found to be clutching the winning ticket.

FRANCE: Lama; Terras (Anglova, Simic, Blanc, Roche, Lizarazu, Larroussi, Pedros, 82, Desailly, Zidane, Guerin, Djorkaeff, Lolo.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Kouba; Horvat, Kadlec, Sestak, Sevcik (Bergic, 45), Neresek, Novotny, Pobotny, Nedved, Marcan (Kudac, 84), Drulak (Koblic, 79), Brestova, L. Mladran (Soudisek).

How the Czechs won

Table with 2 columns: Player, Outcome Score. Rows include Zdenek Zizka (Goal), Lukas Kubik (Goal), Yossi Djorkaeff (Goal), Pavel Nedved (Goal), Sestak (Goal), Petr Berger (Goal), Vincent Garcia (Goal), Karel Poborsky (Goal), Laurent Blanc (Goal), Karel Rada (Goal), Reynald Pedros (Missed), Miroslav Kadlec (Goal), Czech Republic win 6-5 on penalties.



Un-Czeched joy... the Republic's jubilant players celebrate their place in the final after Kadlec converted the sixth and winning penalty

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

Cool Kadlec summons the spirit of '76

Michael Walker witnesses a depressingly familiar story of empty seats and an uninspiring match with a finale of false excitement

IT IS coming home, football is coming home. Ever since Gary McAllister missed his 78th-minute penalty at Wembley almost a fortnight ago we have been subjected to this assertion.

The increasing frequency and volume of its delivery, however, should not detract from the plain fact that football has not come home; if anything, this tournament has proved the opposite.

Spain versus Bulgaria in Leeds, the first played away from Wembley, one of the tournament's most striking images has been of empty seats.

At Elland Road for that first Group B match the row upon row of unfilled places was genuinely shocking and even, for non-Englishmen and women, embarrassing. But that initial shock turned to numbness after visits to St James' Park, Anfield, Hillsborough, the City Ground,

Manchester, how many ordinary Joes can afford £70 to watch a football match?

Euro 96 is football in the corporate community, and the roar of disbelief that rang round Old Trafford when the official attendance of 43,877 was announced was further proof of the huge miscalculation on tickets and pricing.

Both sets of players must have been suitably underwhelmed by the reception they got, but their collective performance was outstandingly uninspired.

The opening half was as tedious as the rip-off programmes costing £4. The first corner came in the 45th minute, the first save nine minutes after half-time. Bernard Lama made that but at the other end Petr Kouba had to wait until four minutes into extra time before he made one. Kouba had been unable to get close to Djorkaeff's rasper that struck the bar earlier, the only time a goal looked possible in normal time. And yet considering the French display against the Dutch, when they conjured a stop from Edwin van der Sar only after 105 minutes, we should have expected as much.

No one's great surprise the so-called golden goal turned out to be a golden bore once more. At least the penalties were full of tension as each successful French one was matched by a Czech's. Then Pedros missed and Kadlec took his first penalty for four years and scored.

Forget 1966: there are shades of 1976. Football may be coming home to Prague.

DIARY

Germans take cod war to heart

WERE not sure if we should tell you this, because the Guardian has a bit of a history so far as cod faxes written on House of Commons notepaper are concerned. This is risky territory, you understand. However, it has come to our attention that the London office of the German Football Federation yesterday received such an item from a group calling itself The Parliamentary Union of British Fishwives.

It was addressed to Bert Vogts and went like this: "Through misguided arrogance you appear to believe that in some way you are superior to other countries. However, this certainly does not apply to Britain. Let me remind you that it was Great Britain who thrashed you in 1918, 1945 and 1966. We only lost in the 1970 finals because our goalkeeper was ill. It is now a matter of record that his drinks have been tampered with the day before the match. Who would carry out such a despicable act? Only a party who stood to gain. In 1990 I concede losing to your team on penalties, but not the match. In recent times your government has chosen to flex its muscles yet again by waging economic warfare against Great Britain; putting pressure on the EU to starve British farmers by banning their beef, etc, etc, etc. Wishing you a speedy return to your native land."

Brooke's chagrin, Redknapp neither answered the letter nor bought the midfielder for the £200,000 he would have cost. His name was Karel Poborsky. After Euro 96 he will probably be sold for £3 million.

WOULD you Adams and Eve it in an attempt to avoid the confusion that surrounded ticket arrangements for the semi-final, the tournament organisers sent an urgent fax to national newspapers on Tuesday afternoon making clear that for the final tickets would be available only via the Wembley hotline. Unfortunately — and true to form — they got the number wrong. At 6pm came a second fax, even more urgent than the first, correcting the mistake. So anyone wanting a ticket for Sunday should phone 0181 982 6877. No promises, mind. Organisation is such that you might get through to Mrs Marsden on the North Circular.

A FEW Scots still uncertain whom to support last night were given four firm pointers by the Glasgow-based Daily Record. England, columnist Bill "von" Leckie briskly reminded his readers, had given the world Nora Batty, warm bitter and the Reliant Robin. Germany on the other hand had exported Claudia Schiffer, chilled Becks and BMW.

IT MAY be the All England Club but Wimbledon officials yesterday refused a request from that wacky double act Murphy and Luke Jensen to wear England shirts — even the white ones this year. And the SW19 stadium further extended to a block on broadcasting yesterday's semi-finals scores over the many Tannoy's at the ground. "We have no plans to do anything special," said a spokesman.

AS SEEN at Wembley last night: David Seaman Astick-on moustaches. Coming soon: the Tony Adams nose and Gareth Southgate ears.

Couto could soon belong to Rangers

RANGERS are on the verge of paying £4 million for Fernando Couto, Parma's 28-year-old Portuguese international defender who has also attracted the interest of Manchester United.

Parma's manager Riccardo Dagary is expected to be playing for his new club Milan in six weeks having undergone keyhole surgery on his right knee yesterday. He tore ligaments during France's quarter-final victory over the Holland at Anfield on Saturday and pulled out of Euro 96.

The Council of Europe has written to the Press Complaints Commission objecting to the Daily Mirror's "declaration of soccer war" on Germany in its Monday editions.

World news, delivered to your door.

The Guardian International and the Observer are both now available by subscription throughout France.

This means you can enjoy the Guardian International's award winning journalism every day, delivered direct to your home. Quality reading - world and UK news, analysis, business, features and sport - brought to you, every morning, at no extra cost.

The Observer is the world's original Sunday newspaper - over 200 years old. Every week, six sections of top quality news, business, arts and sport, plus the award winning Life magazine, delivered to your door.

For more details about rates and our introductory offers, contact our subscription agent, Media Village, Metropole 19, 134 - 140 Rue d'Anvers, Paris 75019, telephone (1) 40 27 94 94, fax (1) 40 37 29 39.

The Guardian theObserver Premier Newspapers

Golf

Lion's share for Montgomerie as French relent

Michael Brittan in Paris

THE French are nothing if not pragmatic. After refusing steadfastly for years to pay appearance money to the top players, and seeing the French Open suffer as a consequence, the organisers have performed a volte-face this year. Accordingly, 11 members of Europe's victorious Ryder Cup team have assembled for the Continent's oldest championship at the National Club, Gaysmont. One of them, Europe's No. 1 Colin Montgomerie, now has a three-year

contract with the French worth up to £160,000 if he wins a major championship before the end of next season.

Montgomerie, who has not played in the Peugeot-sponsored event since 1993, has agreed a performance-related deal. He has been paid £20,000 for his appearance this week, next year his fee will be double, and the following season he will receive £80,000; should he win a major this year, or next, £20,000 will be added to those payments.

outlined to France's leading amateurs the secrets of successful tournament golf.

The money being paid not by the sponsors nor the promoter Lionel Provost but by the French federation, at whose headquarters the event has been staged for the past five years. Claude-Roger Cartier, the retiring French federation president, said: "It is important for the European No. 1 to be involved with the French Open. For us it was a gamble, but if you wanted to pick someone who will become a major champion you would choose Colin. And it is

cheaper to sign him now than after he has won that title."

Montgomerie had hoped at the recent US Open at Oakland Hills to rid himself of the tag as the best player not to have won a major, but he shared 10th place. "I led the fairways hit and greens in regulation, and when my work on the green gets to that level I will win," he said. "It's all a matter of confidence. I know I can hit the fairways and greens, so I go and do it. But when I get there I get negative thoughts because I don't know whether I am going to hole the putt."

"If I was a bachelor or newly-wed I would have gone to the USA by now to get that confidence on their good greens. But golf will never be the No. 1 thing in my life. My family are my first priority."

With a £100,000 first prize at stake this could be a red-letter week for the Scot, who spent his 33rd birthday on Sunday at Smith's Lawn watching polo, and was in the Royal Box at Wimbledon on Monday alongside the Duke and Duchess of Kent. Today he celebrates his sixth wedding anniversary with Elimear, who has accompanied him to the French capital. Life for Monty is a ball.

Seles suffers shock defeat, page 13

Lewis denied his golden shot, page 14

Milligan not yet spiked, page 13

Penalties send Czech Republic into final, page 15

SportsGuardian

EURO 96: THE SEMI-FINALS

Germany 1, England 1 (after 90min and extra time; Germany won 6-5 on penalties)

England pay the ultimate penalty

David Lacey

ENGLAND suffered penalty heartache yet again last night when Gareth Southgate saw his kick saved by Germany's Köpke. It brought back all the memories from Italia 90 when England also lost a shoot-out to the Germans. No one dreamt it could happen again. It did.

Last night's match was billed as a semi-final yet had a feel of finality about it. The Czech Republic, horses so dark nobody saw them coming, awaited the winners at Wembley on Sunday, but for England the occasion was about restoring some sort of parity to the history of their encounters with the Germans.

Terry Venables decided against replacing one Neville, the suspended Gary, with another, his younger brother Phil. It was probably never a serious option. Instead Ince, banned for the Spain match, simply returned to the side, leaving England to play three at the back.

It was a bold approach by Venables, although in view of Bertie Vogts's choice of team it looked logical enough. As Venables had suspected, Kuntz, coming in for the injured Klinsmann, was the Germans' lone striker with Möller in support.

In less than three minutes, after two minutes and 12 seconds in fact, boldness had been rewarded. With the Germans retreating en masse Ince unleashed a dipping shot from 30 yards which almost caught Köpke by surprise. The German goalkeeper, his country's best puncher since Max Schmeling, managed to fist the ball over the bar, but he was soon having to fish it out of the net.

Gascoigne's corner from the left found the head of Adams, the England captain



Hall the equaliser... Kuntz turns away after putting Germany level

glanced it down waist-high, and Shearer hurried himself forward to nod the ball past Köpke. Wembley rubbed its eyes. This was too good a start to be true.

So it was soon to prove. The Germans spent the next dozen or so minutes consolidating, then they scored with their first properly co-ordinated attack just past the quarter-hour.

The move was simplicity itself and owed everything to slick passing and running.

Möller found Helmer, his pass caught England's defence square and undermanned,

and Kuntz slipped in front of Pearce to beat Seaman with a cool flick of an instep.

Now Germany were playing the more relaxed football, infiltrating England's cover almost at will with Ince struggling to keep track of Möller, with Freund and Illits blocking the paths of Gascoigne and Platt, and with Ziege an ominous presence on the left wing.

As the half wore on, England's lack of a regular right-back further encouraged the Germans to attack down their left flank. With Möller a consistent threat as he drifted

into spaces behind England's midfield, and Gascoigne a liability whenever he gave the ball away, Venables's team looked increasingly uncomfortable when the opposition broke away.

Against that, England continued to promise themselves a second goal. In fact one all but arrived 12 minutes before half-time. Sheringham turned on Anderton's low corner from the right and aimed a well-struck shot towards the inside of the near post only to see it blocked by Helmer.

England all but ended the first half as they had begun it.

The width of Venables's attack, allied to the acceleration of Anderton and McLennan, frequently stretched Germany's stifling cover. Three minutes from the interval it almost regained England the lead.

Platt dispossessed Ziege on the right, Anderton squirmed away from Illits and from his centre Shearer rose to head a fraction wide of the left-hand post.

Scholl, gathering a ball played inside by Kuntz and swaying past two opponents before he was stopped, quickly reminded Wembley of just how costly such misses could prove.

England began the second half with a more studied tempo, concentrating more on patient possession. It was as if they had been told to save their legs by making the ball do more of the work.

There was a bounce and a buoyancy about England's football. Ince was beginning to master the midfield and soon produced another ambitious drive which dipped over the bar.

Germany looked subdued, which is always a dangerous sign. Sure enough, a pass from Ziege and an explosion of pace from Illits turned England's defence on the left just before the hour. A queue of Germans awaited his ball back from the byline, but Helmer's shot was too high.

The match was becoming a classic. In the 82nd minute the Gascoigne of old, chest thrust out, dribbled through the defence to the right-hand byline before his cross was cleared.

The confidence with which so many England players were taking on defenders with the ball was infectious. But they badly needed a goal.

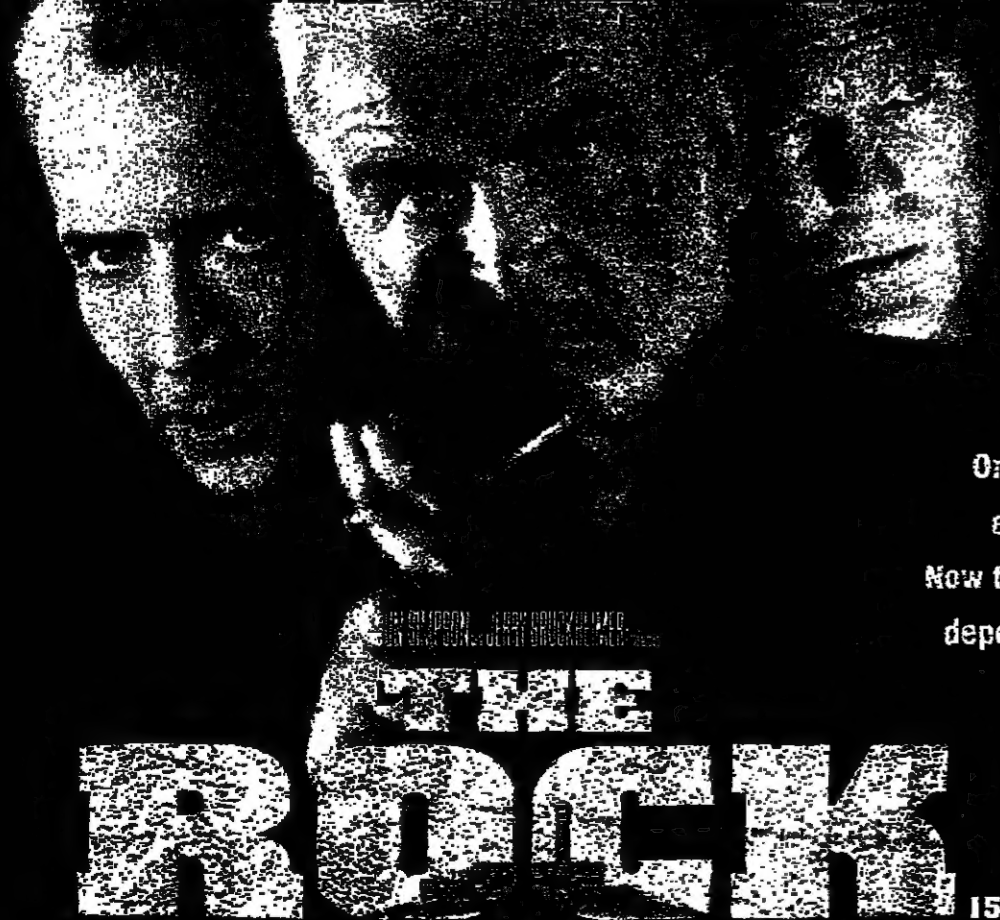
ENGLAND: Seaman; Southgate, Adams, Pearce, Anderton, Platt, Ince, Gascoigne, McLennan; Sheringham, Shearer. **GERMANY:** Köpke; Seaman; Rouler, Scholl, Helmer, Ziege, Freund, Illits, Shearer, Kuntz, Möller, S. Pálfi (Hungary).



Feeling the strain... Shearer and Helmer express the heat of challenge

"THE ROCK DELIVERS! EMINENTLY ENTERTAINING"
"DAZZLING TEAMWORK FROM CAGE AND CONNERY"

SEAN CONNERY NICHOLAS CAGE ED HARRIS



Alcatraz.
Only one man has ever broken out.
Now five million lives depend on two men breaking in.

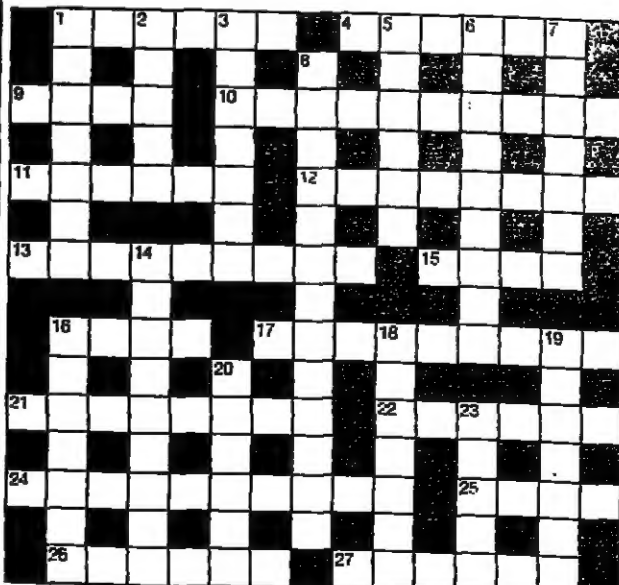
From the producers of CRIMSON TIDE and the director of BAD BOYS

HOLLYWOOD PHOTOS...
CASTING BY...
PRODUCTION DESIGNER...
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS...
PRODUCED BY...
WRITTEN BY...
DIRECTED BY...
CASTING BY...
COSTUME DESIGNER...
HAIR AND MAKEUP...
PRODUCTION OFFICE...
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS...
PRODUCED BY...
WRITTEN BY...
DIRECTED BY...

AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE NOW

Guardian Crossword No 20,690

Set by Gordius



Across

- 1 Opening seed (6)
- 4 Jolly close hugging Ethel (6)
- 9 Work that could be its alternative (4)
- 10 11 when short craftily takes each penny (10)
- 11 9 this and nothing wins (6)
- 12 Fried chips are heavenly! (6)
- 13 Olive branch waved, but no end to the war — we just have to do with a breather (9)
- 15 Atmospheric gas put into container which may go up with it (4)
- 16 Sea bird backs others (4)
- 17 Dines out with pigs, feeling superior (9)
- 21 Member of press gang with 1 off, going back and forth round the harbour (8)
- 22 Hardly material for a cover picture (6)

Down

- 1 Tommy could be one in soft metal (7)
- 2 Passage quoted for cunning exercises? (5)
- 3 Honour found in some calculating Scottish 9 (7) (4,5)
- 5 Prime English delusion? (6)
- 6 Prepare to be a surveyor? (4,5)
- 7 (7)
- 8 Press torture? (9,4)
- 14 Patient with negative progress to common currency? (9)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,690

- 16 Gets angry when coming to understand the point (7)
- 18 Ordered to pay £10 fine (7)
- 19 There's no way odd spirit can find a remedy (7)
- 20 Part of what a prudent person allocates to reserves (6)
- 23 Measure of desperate character going to church (5)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0203 238 2338. Calls cost 39p per min. cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT5.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.